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After 40 years, toxic waste leaves Bhopal

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Key fertilizer polluting groundwater

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State projected to borrow ₹48,000 cr. in 12 weeks

BENGALURU
Karnataka is projected to make borrowings of ₹4,000 crore each in every week in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-2025. » PAGE 6

893 people killed in road accidents in city in 2024

BENGALURU
The Bengaluru city police recorded a total of 4,784 road accident cases in 2024 in which 893 people were killed and 4,052 people were injured. According to statistics released by the traffic police, the number of accidents declined by 3.9% when compared with 2023. » PAGE 3

Will accept SC decision on Dallewal stir: Centre

Farmer leader's hunger strike enters 37th day; groups leading the protest say they will not relent unless demands are met; Samyukt Kisan Morcha turns down invitation for discussions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/ CHANDIGARH

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said here on Wednesday that the Centre will abide by the Supreme Court's directions on the indefinite hunger strike by farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal.

"The Supreme Court is looking into the matter. We will accept whatever decision the top court takes," Mr. Chouhan said at a press conference.

However, farmer and farm labourer groups that have been camping on the inter-State boundary of Punjab and Haryana since February 13, 2024, declared they would not relent unless their demands are met, even as Mr. Dallewal's hunger strike entered the 37th day.

For a way out: Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan meeting officials at the Krishi Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

MSP law, loan waiver

Farmer outfits are seeking a legal guarantee for purchasing their crops at a minimum support price (MSP) and a farm loan waiver, among other demands. Farmers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) and Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), the two umbrella bodies spearheading the farmers' agitation in Punjab, are camping at Shambhu-Ambala and Khanauri-Jind on the inter-State boundary, after being stopped from entering Haryana.

Delhi march plan

KMM coordinator Sarwan Singh Pandher said, "Dallewal*ji*'s fast unto death continues for the 37th consecutive day, but the Centre is in slumber. We will continue to struggle until our demands are met. Dates for the 'Delhi march' will be announced in the coming days," he said.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha, the umbrella organisation of about 500 farmers' organisations, has turned down the invitation for discussions extended by a high-powered committee constituted by the Supreme Court.

CONTINUED ON
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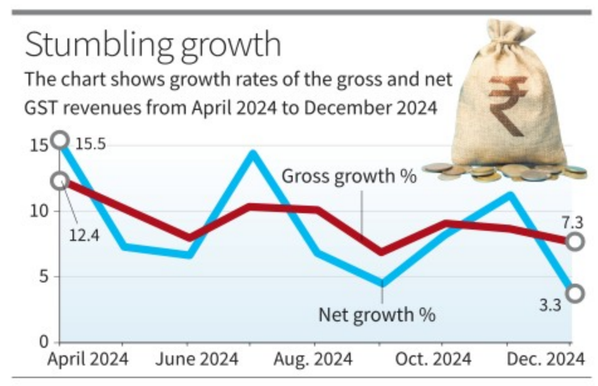
Net GST growth slumps to 3.3% in Dec., as revenues drop and refunds rise 45%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) receipts increased at the second-slowest pace in 43 months in December, while growth in net GST collections, after adjusting for refunds, slumped to 3.3%, the weakest in financial year 2024-25.

December's gross GST inflows, for transactions done in November, were a tad under ₹1.77 lakh crore, hitting a three-month low and reflecting 7.3% growth in comparison to the same month in 2023. Growth has only slumped to these levels twice in over three-and-a-half years: in June 2024, when gross receipts rose 7.3%; and this September, when growth hit a 40-month low of 6.5%.

Part of the sharper moderation in net collections' growth vis-à-vis gross receipts, can be explained by a 45.3% uptick in refunds to taxpayers, which touched ₹22,490 crore. Net receipts stood at ₹1,54,366 crore in December.



In November, gross GST receipts were up 8.5%, but net collections rose at a faster pace of 11.1%. This was linked to an 8.9% drop in refunds, led by a nearly 20% decline in taxes repaid on domestic transactions. By contrast, domestic refunds were up 31% in December, and refunds to exporters were up 64.5%.

Prior to refunds, revenues from domestic transactions were up 8.4% in December, lower than the 9.4% growth in November, while revenues from imports grew just 3.9%, down from 5.9% in November.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Truck mows down 10 in New Orleans

Agence France-Presse
NEW ORLEANS

A man "hell-bent" on "carnage" drove a pickup truck at high speed into a crowd of New Year revellers in New Orleans in the U.S. on Wednesday, killing at least 10 people and injuring more than 35.

The man, who initially fled after exchanging gunfire with police, has since died, CNN and NBC News reported.

The police said the incident took place around 3.15 a.m. in the heart of the city's famous French Quarter, which was packed with people celebrating the start of 2025.

"This man was trying to run over as many people as he possibly could," Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick told reporters.

"He was hell-bent on creating the carnage and the damage that he did," Ms. Kirkpatrick said.

Tragic start: Police investigators surround a truck that drove into a crowd in New Orleans, Louisiana, on Wednesday. AFP

The attacker shot at the police, who fired back. Two officers were wounded but were stable, Ms. Kirkpatrick said. The truck had been driven at "very high speed" and in a "very intentional" manner. The operational command of the investigation here would be taken by the FBI, Ms. Kirkpatrick said.

Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry described the incident as a "horrific act of violence."

The New Orleans attack came just 10 days after a similar car-ramming attack in Germany in the eastern city of Magdeburg that killed five and wounded over 200. In that case, the police arrested a Saudi man and said he appeared to be mentally disturbed.

Ukraine halts transit of Russian gas to Europe

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine on Wednesday halted Russian gas supplies to European customers through its pipeline network after a pre-war transit deal expired at the end of last year.

Ukraine's Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko confirmed on Wednesday morning that Kyiv had stopped the transit "in the interest of national security". "This is a historic event. Russia is losing markets and will incur financial losses. Europe has already decided to phase out Russian gas, and [this] aligns with what Ukraine has done today," Mr. Halushchenko said in an update on the Telegram messaging app.

An underground gas storage facility in Lviv, Ukraine. AFP

At a summit in Brussels last month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy vowed that Kyiv would not allow Moscow to use the transits to earn "additional billions... on our blood, on the lives of our citizens." But he had briefly held open the possibility of the gas flows continuing if payments to Russia were withheld until the war ends. Russian state-owned energy company Gazprom said on Wednesday that it "has no technical and legal possibility" of sending gas through Ukraine, due to Kyiv's refusal to extend the deal.

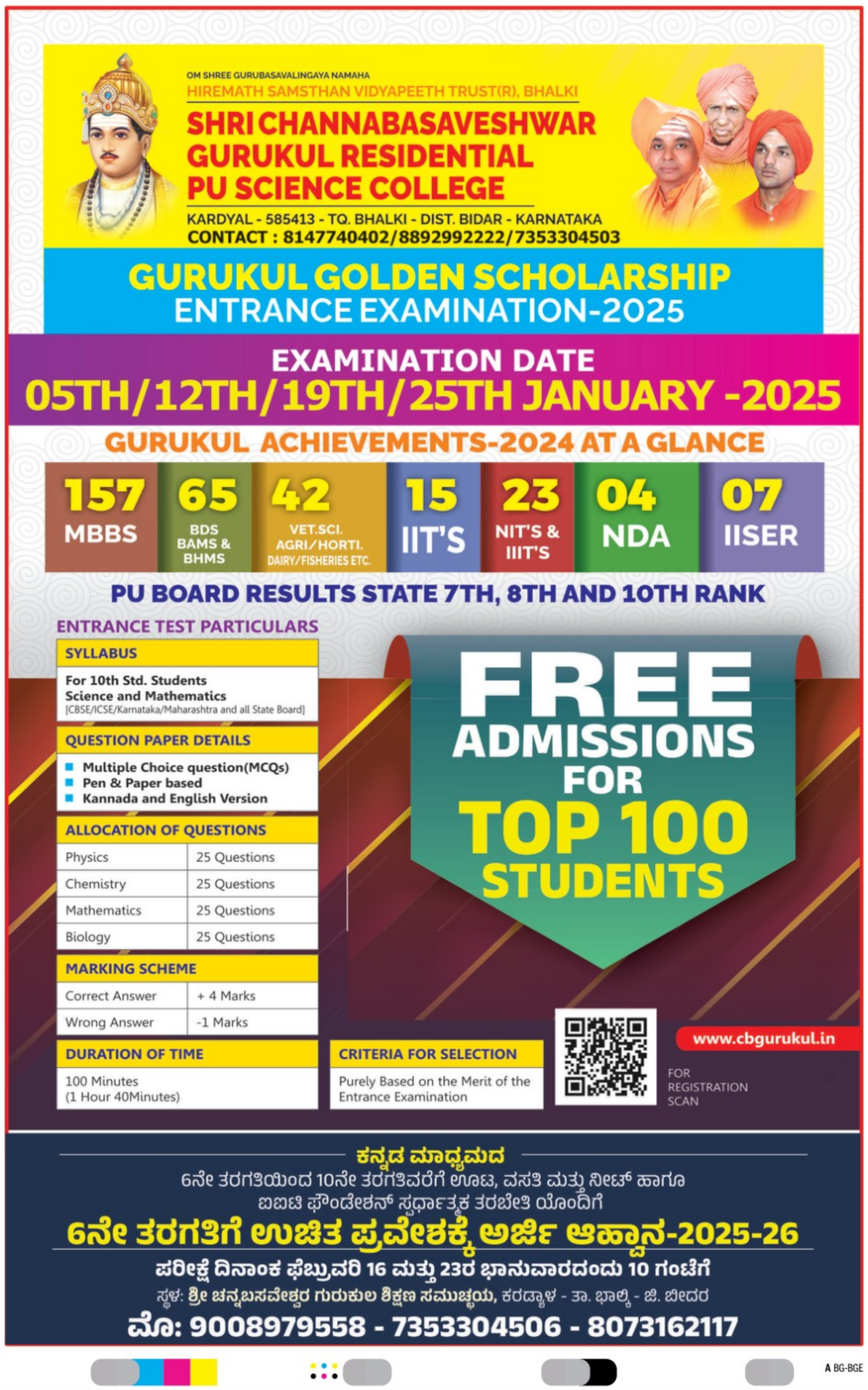
Even as Russian troops and tanks moved into Ukraine in 2022, Russian natural gas kept flowing through the country's pipeline network to Europe, under a five-year agreement. Gazprom earned money from the gas and Ukraine took transit fees.

Before the war, Russia supplied nearly 40% of the EU's pipeline natural gas. Gas flowed through four pipeline systems, one under the Baltic Sea, one through Belarus and Poland, one through Ukraine and one under the Black Sea through Turkiye to Bulgaria.

Energy crisis

After the war started, Russia cut off most supplies through the Baltic and Belarus-Poland pipelines, citing disputes over a demand for payment in roubles. The Baltic pipeline was blown up in an act of sabotage, but details of the attack remain murky.

The Russian cutoff caused an energy crisis in Europe. Germany had to shell out billions of euros to set up floating terminals to import liquefied natural gas that comes by ship. Users cut back as prices rose. Norway and the U.S. filled the gap, becoming the two largest suppliers.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The new showman in town

With two titles from three finals in four seasons in the Pro Kabaddi League and the spunk to take opponents head on, Iranian allrounder Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh's legacy as the latest bonafide superstar of the sport has been cemented

Lavanya L

Remember Amitabh Bachchan's lines from the 2000 film *Mohabbatein*? *Parampara, prathishta, anushaasan* - he declared, in that baritone of his. It translates to tradition, honour and obedience. The Indian way of kabaddi often feels modelled on these ideals. Despite the glitz and glamour the Pro Kabaddi League has brought to the sport with its shining lights, switch to the mat and NBA/cricket-style broadcasting, it is still very much a sport of the soil, passed on as a cherished keepsake from one generation to the next. You may be the biggest star in the world but coach sahib is still *numero uno* in the room. It is a culture built on rules, age-old playing styles and respect bordering on blind obedience.

Over the years, a young raider from Iran has emerged as a sort of antithesis of all this. He's not the humble, 'do-your-job-and-return' player. He will walk up to you and try to headbutt you. He brings Iran's proud wrestling traditions onto the mat as he single-handedly smacks opponents down. He relishes the opportunity to put on a show and he now has two Pro Kabaddi League titles to show for it.

He is Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh.

First impression

The now 24-year-old took PKL by storm when he was signed by Patna Pirates for Rs. 30 lakh three years ago. There was an air about him as he manned the left corner for the three-time title holder. He was quick, agile, ready to invite raiders to challenge him and when the raider least expected it, he would have their ankles tightly in his grip. He finished with 89 tackle points, the most by a defender that season. With a solid raiding department and this maverick from Iran making a whole part of the mat untouchable, Patna barged into the final with authority only to tumble over the final hard called Dabang Delhi.

His next season with Patna would be his last with the outfit. He finished with 84 points, missing the orange sleeve - given to the top defender - by just five tackle points. A new season brought with it a different hairstyle - the top bun made way for a suave bleached top. This season gave fans and opponents several imperious moments of defensive brilliance to revisit, particularly from the match against Dabang Delhi where Shadloui single-handedly scored 19 of his team's 27 points. That match was emblematic of the outfit's fortunes. Shadloui was a lone wolf as his team crumbled down to 10th place that season.

The auction ahead of season 10 was crucial for Shadloui. He would learn on the flight back from the Hangzhou Asian Games that he was the most expensive foreign player of all time with a massive price tag of ₹2.31 crore paid by Puneri Paltan. Shadloui found himself amidst players of his own age bracket and quickly settled in.

Big comparisons

By this time, Shadloui's legend had grown. His aggression and ruthlessness evoked fear and adoration in equal measure but what it brought most was comparisons with his compatriot - legendary defender Fazel Atrachali.

Fazel, a winner of the league in season 2 with U Mumba, tops the all-time tackle points tally. He was the most successful captain in the league's history until recently (with Sunil Kumar overtaking him this season). Even internationally, he has been a big sharp thorn eating into the flesh of the Indians each time they faced Iran on the kabaddi mat. Shadloui emerged as his successor or, dare we say, replacement.

In an Iranian set-up that was beginning to lean towards the youth, Fazel's place in that left corner has Shadloui circling the waters below. Even in the PKL, the contests featuring these two would also be intense with Shadloui eager to one up his senior.

Fazel had taken Puneri Paltan to the final in season 9, but an injury-hit team eventually succumbed to the raiding superiority of Jaipur Pink Panthers. A season later, Shadloui had the best opportunity to make gains in the comparison contest with Fazel when he helped Pune make the final with Haryana Steelers standing in the way of the trophy. He largely played second fiddle in this game with just two points to his name, but such was Pune's playing style. The defence rarely operated as a one-man setup. A close 28-25 win went their way and Shadloui's Paltan emerged champion. The Iranian topped the tackles tally with 99 points this time.

You'd expect this to be a hit formula and for Shadloui to be retained by Pune for the next season, but he wasn't. Back in the auction, he unsurprisingly went for big money yet again with the Steelers paying ₹2.07 crore for his services.

"If you want the best defender in the league, you have to pay," Shadloui later told this publication sheepishly.

However, this acquisition was in the works well before the teams sat down for the auction exercise. After the season 10 final, Haryana coach Manpreet Singh and Shadloui spoke personally for the first time.

"We spoke for about 10-15 minutes," Manpreet told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the recently concluded 11th chapter of PKL which Haryana won.

"He told me he was happy to see our team come to the final with a young crop of players and we exchanged pleasantries. At that time itself, I wondered how it would be to have him on our side.

"When we had the off-season camp in Bellary, Shadloui came over there for 10-15 days. It was a short visit as he left abruptly to handle something urgent at home, but that stint was very positive and I knew I wanted him in the setup," he added.

True allrounder

By the time Shadloui took to the mat in his fourth season of the PKL, he was already a bonafide superstar. He had sufficiently annoyed India on the international stage at the Asian Kabaddi Championships in Busan and the Asian Games in China (both in 2023) to be feared by players. But those flamboyant performances also earned him a huge following.

The crew cut from his days with Pune was gone and he was back to sporting his thick black curls, sometimes left open, or tied up with scarves matching Haryana's silks. He looked the part of a mercenary. Men and women alike thronged kabaddi matches with big cutouts of his face and he was happy to oblige them with photos, autographs or sometimes even a mid-match thumbs up or a wink.

Each season, Shadloui worked on bettering his skills on offer. His last run at Patna saw him begging coaching staff to be sent to raid, but they wouldn't relent. His role was fixed in the defence. Sometimes, he went anyway, earning stern glares from coach Ravi Shetty in the process. Even BC Ramesh, the head coach at Pune during his time there, was not too keen on Shadloui the raider. By this time, the man was just short of holding a banner and screaming from the rooftops about his abilities in that department.

The cry that went unheard everywhere else found a keen ear in Manpreet at the Steelers. Shadloui eventually turned a full all-rounder with the Men in Blue as he managed not only to top defender standings yet again with 82 points, but he also scored 57 raid points making him only the second player after Manjeet Chhillar to manage at least 50 points in offence and defence in a single season.

"Many people like to call themselves all-rounders, but I've shown them what a true all-rounder is," Shadloui would say on the sidelines of another stellar campaign.

Something different

"This season I want to show a different performance from Shadloui," the Iranian told *The Hindu* ahead of the playoffs. "I have been raiding more and even in training I am focusing more on it. Because of that, my defence has actually faltered a little. I want to fix it and finish with the orange sleeve," he said, the defender in him always wanting to stay on top. "It's a bit hard but no problem. If the team gets a good performance, I will be happy."

That's not entirely true, and Shadloui would be the first to admit. He is ever the team man, happy to move positions across the mat and do everything to work for a win, but he is not one to let his individual self melt away in the process. In describing his ambitions, he often slips into referring to himself in the third person.

"I want Shadloui to be a big phenomenon. I want to be judged as the best defender at least five to six times. I want to become a symbol in the PKL and make a big career," he said.

The last two final appearances were underwhelming from an individual point of view. Matching his fierce style of play was his old franchise Patna Pirates, with an audacious raiding duo leading the pack – Devank Dalal and Ayan Lochab. Shadloui though showed no respect to the nearly 400 raid points between the young pair and targeted them throughout the first half. The Haryana defence did not allow Patna's strength any space to show itself. With seven points to his name on the night, and a mature performance that reflected his experience more than his raw fire, Shadloui clinched his second consecutive PKL crown and helped Haryana to its first.

For his exploits and impact in turning games on its head, he was adjudged the Most Valuable Player of the season.

Until next time

For all his over-the-top showmanship and provocation on the kabaddi mat, his life back home is the polar opposite. People know him there, but don't profess their love for him the way India does. He runs a construction business in Urmia which is where a large part of his PKL windfall has been channelled. His native city doesn't have a kabaddi mat or a dedicated arena for him to train so once a month, he makes his way to the neighbouring area of Naqadeh in the West Azerbaijan province where mat infrastructure is available.

His kabaddi addiction isn't even passed on, he is the first in his family to play the sport. He belongs to a region known for the volleyball players it produces as opposed to most of his compatriots who come with regions like Golestan which produces athletes who dive into contact sports.

When he isn't training, you'll catch him sharing sufi-themed poetry on his Instagram account. He loves indulging in romantic literature from time to time too... a big softy and a stark contrast to the brash arrogance he has become synonymous with in the PKL.

"I first played kabaddi 12 years ago and in my first mat session, I claimed four to five tackle points. The bug bit me then.

"Kabaddi is now in my blood. It's become a part of me now. When I play this sport, my soul is happy. I am happy here and this is where I'll be. There's more coming. Just wait and watch."

THE GIST

- Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh is the latest in a line of exemplary Iranians to feature in the Pro Kabaddi League
- He has consistently been among the top two defenders in the four PKL seasons he has been a part of, topping defender tallies thrice
- Shadloui won the PKL title two years in a row, first with Puneri Paltan in 2023 and then with Haryana Steelers in 2024
- While he is a primarily a defender, the Iranian has worked hard to expand his repertoire to be an adept raider for his club and country
- Shadloui is a big Aamir Khan fan and enjoys watching his films, with PK being one of his favourites
- He runs a construction business back home in Urmia, Iran

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Four UN environmental summits fell short in 2024. What happened?

At the heart of the breakdown lies a divergence in national priorities. Developing nations, grappling with developmental challenges, economic constraints, and the effects of climate change, have repeatedly demanded more technology and financial support from developed countries

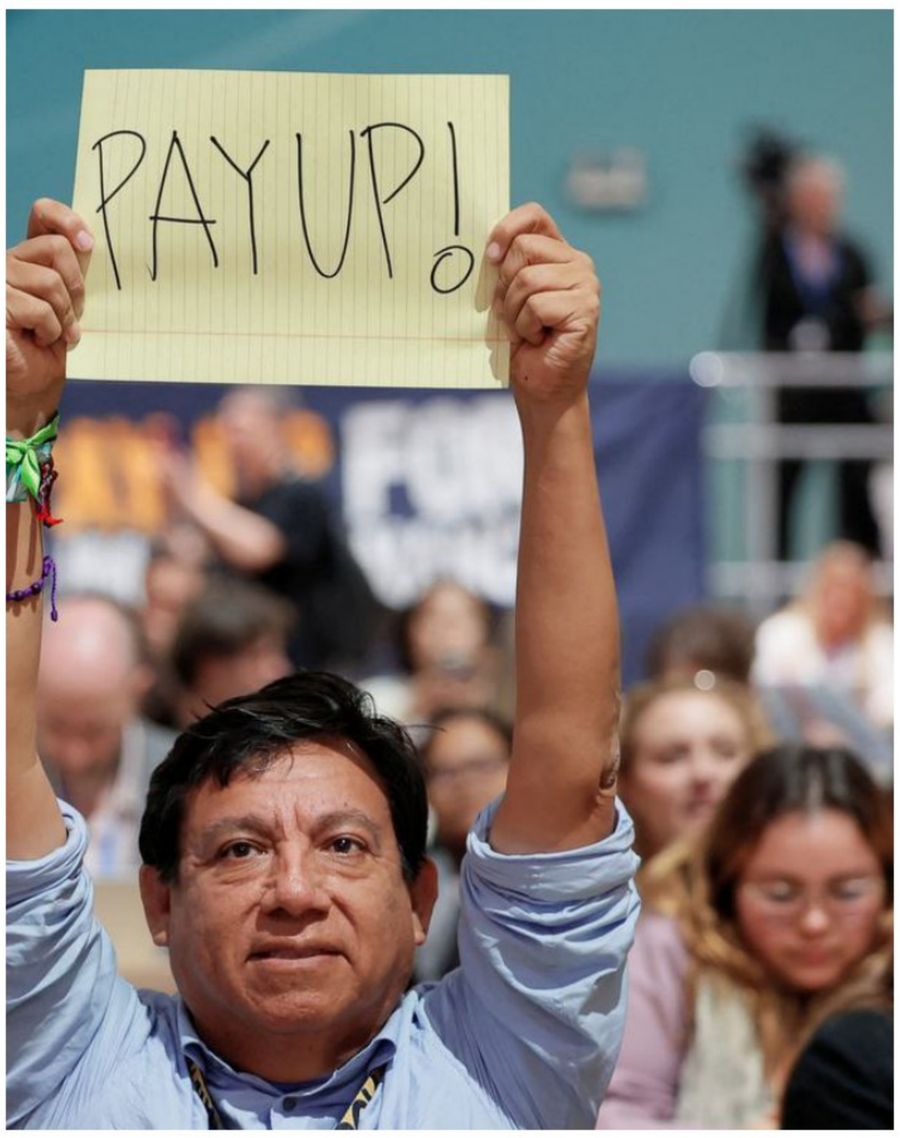
Indu K. Murthy

The United Nations' efforts to address critical environmental challenges hit multiple roadblocks this year, with four key summits – in Colombia on biodiversity, Azerbaijan on climate, Saudi Arabia on land degradation, and South Korea on plastics – failing to deliver meaningful outcomes.

These meetings brought together governments, researchers, policymakers, industries, and civil society organisations to ensure their goals were aligned, build equitable accountability, and mobilise adequate finance for action. But all four summits achieved no or partial success on issues they had set to address. In fact, this is the fourth time UN discussions designed to push countries toward significant progress in addressing biodiversity loss, climate change, and plastic pollution have either ended without consensus or yielded unsatisfactory outcomes.

This is a significant setback in global efforts to address biodiversity loss and climate change, potentially leading to delayed action on critical issues such as climate finance, drought mitigation, and plastic pollution, with the most vulnerable countries potentially suffering the greatest impact.

The partial or full failures of these talks raise pressing concerns about the global community's ability to combat biodiversity loss, climate change, and other urgent environmental crises. Understanding the reasons behind these setbacks and their implications for global cooperation is essential to charting a more effective path forward.



An activist at the 'People's Plenary' of the COP29 United Nations climate change conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November. REUTERS

Divergent national interests

At the heart of the talks' breakdown lies a stark and growing divergence in national priorities. Developing nations, grappling with developmental challenges, economic constraints, and the impacts of climate change, have repeatedly demanded more technology transfer and financial support from developed countries. But developed nations are reluctant to commit additional resources, citing domestic political pressures and economic challenges of their own.

For example, the Colombia talks on biodiversity conservation faltered as countries failed to agree on financing mechanisms to support sustainable land-use practices. Financing conservation at scale came to a gridlock with countries lagging in ambition, being nowhere close to delivering the $700 billion-a-year requirement. In Azerbaijan, developing nations demanded $1.3 trillion a year from developed nations, and the talks ended with the latter loosely agreeing to raise the amount from a wide range of sources, including private investment.

Also in Azerbaijan, countries were divided over the pledge to transition away from fossil fuels, a decision made during the last UN climate summit. The plastic pollution talks in South Korea also brought to the fore a significant divide among participating nations. The meeting concluded without reaching an agreement primarily because countries that rely on economies dependent on ongoing demand for plastics opposed a legally binding treaty. Instead, they pushed for proper usage and recycling of plastic waste.

Consensus and crises

Several talks stumbled on disagreements over the frameworks needed to monitor and enforce environmental goals. In Azerbaijan, discussions on implementing the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement saw divisions over the accountability mechanisms for emission reductions, particularly for high-emission nations.

In Saudi Arabia, industrialised nations clashed with African countries over the establishment of a legally binding drought protocol. While the former wanted a broad operational framework, the African nations demanded a concrete plan with economic commitments.

Global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, economic instability, and geopolitical conflicts, have created significant challenges for environmental action. They have diverted attention and resources away from pressing environmental priorities as governments grapple with urgent domestic concerns such as public health, economic recovery, and social stability.

For many countries, particularly those with limited institutional and/or financial capacity, the challenge to balance economic recovery efforts with long-term sustainability goals has weakened their negotiating positions. This has further reduced their willingness or ability to commit to ambitious environmental targets.

Developing economies, in particular, face heightened difficulties as they navigate inflation, debt burdens, and overall developmental challenges alongside climate vulnerabilities, leading to calls for greater financial and technological support from wealthier nations.

Growing divide, lack of consensus

These setbacks in global negotiations complicate the already daunting task of addressing global environmental challenges.

Delayed action: The inability and failure to agree on frameworks and commit to concrete actions by nations postpone critical measures required to fight global issues such as biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation, and plastic pollution. This delay increases the likelihood of pushing global systems closer to irreversible tipping points, with severe consequences for communities and economies worldwide.

Incoherent, fragmented efforts: As multilateral processes falter, there is a growing risk of countries turning to unilateral regional action. While these initiatives are well-meaning and can make progress, they would lack the global coherence necessary to address environmental issues comprehensively and equitably and could trigger new problems because of a lack of coordination among nations.

Erosion of trust: Repeated failures in negotiations risk undermining confidence among nations, making future cooperation even more difficult.

In Azerbaijan, countries were divided over fossil fuels. The plastic pollution talks in South Korea also concluded without agreement because countries that rely on an ongoing demand for plastics opposed a legally binding treaty

Pressure on future summits: The failure of multiple global negotiations on the environment further forces upcoming meetings to deliver meaningful outcomes.

Rebuilding momentum

To advance global environmental goals, several key strategies must be prioritised. Climate finance is key to this. Wealthier nations must honour their commitments to provide financial and technological support to developing nations. This would create a more equitable foundation for negotiations and help bridge trust gaps between developed and developing economies.

Equally critical is the need to enhance transparency and accountability by establishing robust mechanisms to track progress and hold nations accountable for their commitments. This would play a vital role in restoring confidence in multilateral processes.

Inclusive diplomacy is also essential to address geopolitical tensions and ensure all voices, particularly those of vulnerable nations, are heard in negotiations. By promoting equitable participation, global cooperation can become more effective and resilient.

Further, there must be a strong focus on implementation – shifting the emphasis from ambitious pledges to tangible action – backed by measurable outcomes. This pragmatic approach ensures progress even in the face of broader disagreements.

Finally, it is crucial to acknowledge and address connections between biodiversity loss, land degradation, plastic pollution, and climate change – a complex web of environmental crises that amplify one another. Climate change accelerates habitat destruction, ultimately leading to biodiversity loss, while degraded ecosystems such as deforested lands, desertification and land degradation or overexploited soils release carbon, exacerbating global warming.

Similarly, plastic pollution harms marine and terrestrial ecosystems and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions during its production and degradation. Addressing these issues in isolation has proven insufficient. Global environmental talks must therefore prioritise these interconnections, foster integrated strategies that protect ecosystems, restore degraded landscapes, and reduce pollution while tackling climate change.

The challenges are immense, but so are the stakes. As environmental crises intensify, the world can't afford further stalemates. It is imperative for nations to move beyond short-term interests and embrace a shared vision for a sustainable future.

(Indu K. Murthy leads the Climate, Environment, and Sustainability sector at the Center for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank. indukmurthy@cstep.in)

A large number of ants can together make more complicated decisions by having different ants make different parts of each decision. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Ants team up to make tough decisions

Arkatapa Basu

The small size of ants has nothing to do with their stature among insects and, in fact, in the animal kingdom. Over the years, they have colonised almost every major landmass on the planet, and their total biomass is expected to exceed that of birds and mammals combined. They are eusocial insects: their colonies are organised with a great degree of cooperation and division of labour.

A study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on December 23 offered to add one more feather to their caps. In the study, Israeli researchers explored how two species – longhorn crazy ants and humans – dealt with challenges by working together.

Just as it's easier to haul a heavier object with a large number of people, the researchers have reported that a large number of ants can together make more complicated decisions by having different ants make different parts of each decision.

In an experiment, the researchers had the ants carry a T-shaped object through a series of ant-sized obstacles. This is a difficult task for ants because they can't talk to each other about how they can fit the object through a particular entrance using only their pheromone-based communication.

In a parallel setup, the team had a bunch of people navigate a similar obstacle course carrying a similarly oddly shaped object.

To level the playing field, the humans were made to wear sunglasses and masks and barred from speaking or gesturing to each other.

The team found that the ant groups outperformed their human counterparts. While individual ants struggled, ant groups were able to coordinate their efforts in ways that exceeded individual capabilities – an example of emergent persistence.

Ants banked on distributed coordination, allowing them to adjust and align their actions according to the actions of other ants, eventually arriving at the 'correct' solution

On the other hand, the people weren't able to discuss and strategise their course, and often failed to improve on individual performances. Sometimes, in fact, human groups fared worse than individual humans.

According to the researchers, in the absence of communication, individuals tended to rush to do what they thought their teammates would do. This phenomenon, colloquially called groupthink, drove participants to pursue incorrect solutions like pulling the T-shaped object directly towards gaps in the wall.

Ants, on the other hand, banked on distributed coordination, allowing them to adjust and align their actions according to the actions of other ants, eventually arriving at the 'correct' solution.

The study highlighted the power of emergent behaviour in collective problem-solving.

"Similar examples in which grouping leads to newly acquired cognitive abilities are rare," the researchers wrote in their paper. "One example comes from fish that can expand their sensing range by grouping, which allows the school to respond to environmental gradients that occur over long length scales. Another example comes from fish that modulate their responsiveness to risk by modifying the spatial structure of the group."

It also remains to be seen how humans habituated to communicating in ways other than talking would perform.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Things sort of related to trees

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

When a strong electric discharge passes through an insulating material, its progression can take the shape of a rapidly branching tree. What are these figures called?

QUESTION 2

One example of the many abstract data types in computer science is the _____ ____. It's so named because each node in this tree has at best two child nodes. As the tree progresses, it branches out in factors of 2. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

The _____ _____ is a fractal shape that's also one of the easiest to create. Start with a line segment and split one end into two branches. Then repeat the process for all new line segments created in this way. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

In computational linguistics, what is the name for the tree-like representation used to understand the syntax's structure of any given sentence using specific grammatical rules?

QUESTION 5

Name the hunting practice whereby hunters use dogs to chase animals up a tree, where they can be spotted and shot at more easily. The idiot "barking up the wrong tree" comes from this practice.

Answers to December 31 quiz:
1. Property due to which (almost) all sets are also their subsets – **Ans: Reflexive property**
2. Most abundant polymer on the earth – **Ans: Cellulose**
3. Material that helped popularise motion picture films – **Ans: Celluloid**
4. Condition in which skin becomes lumpy – **Ans: Cellulite**
5. Variety of just-in-time manufacturing prized for agility – **Ans: Cellular manufacturing**

Visual: **Bass violin or violone**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Viswanadharao Batchu | Srividya Tadepalli

Visual:The tree in the garb of a person in this image is the unofficial mascot of which university? Credit: BrokenSphere

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

New Year celebrations pass off peacefully in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara expressed his gratitude to the public and the police after the New Year celebrations went off peacefully in the city.

"Lakhs of people, including youth, gathered for New Year celebrations. The events remained peaceful, with no untoward incident reported, for the first time in the State," Dr. Parameshwara said.

Over 11,800 police personnel across the city were on their toes to ensure law and order.

The crowd on Brigade Road in Bengaluru on Tuesday night. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BBMP personnel cleaning a road after the New Year celebrations in Bengaluru.

Stray incidents

Two stray incidents of misbehaviour were reported inside pubs in Marathahalli and Bellandur police station limits and the police have taken up the cases.

A woman who had come to a pub at Kadubeesanahalli with her male friend for the celebrations alleged that a man who was in the pub touched her inappropriately. She raised objection and blamed the lack of security at the pub before approaching the police. Based on her complaint, the police registered a case against the unknown person who is absconding. In a similar incident, another woman who visited a pub in Bellandur complained that an unidentified man misbehaved with her and forced her to drink liquor. She raised objection following which the accused fled.

Another incident was reported when a man was caught by a woman on M.G. Road and slapped for allegedly misbehaving with her while walking. The police later detained the suspect and took him to the Ashok Nagar police station. Another drunk man tried to argue with a policeman on duty and created a ruckus . He was detained and later released.

Waste cleared

Around 15 tonnes of waste, including non-recyclable materials, were collected from M.G. Road and nearby areas in Bengaluru following the New Year celebrations.

The operation, focused on key roads in the central business district, began at 3 a.m. and concluded by 7 a.m. on New Year's Day, according to a release issued by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Roads, including M.G. Road, Brigade Road, Church Street, Residency Road, Richmond Road, St. Mark's Road, and Kasturba Road were cleaned to ensure smooth passage for commuters.

The clean-up drive, overseen by BBMP's Shanthinagar division, involved more than 70 civic workers. The team was supported by junior health officials, marshals, 25 auto tippers, and three compactors to ensure efficient waste collection, the release said.

The collected waste comprised plastic covers, bottles, footwear, and other discarded items. Approximately 3 tonnes of recyclable dry waste were sent to recycling units for processing.

893 people killed in road accidents in city in 2024

The number of mishaps dipped by 3.9% when compared with 2023, as per traffic police data

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru city police recorded a total of 4,784 road accident cases in 2024 in which 893 people were killed and 4,052 people were injured.

According to statistics released by the traffic police, the number of accidents declined by 3.9% when compared with 2023. "The efforts made by the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and all stakeholders towards improving road safety in 2024 resulted in the reduction of fatal accidents by 1.26% in deaths due to accidents and by 1.9% in non-fatal accidents, taking the overall reduction to 3.97% in the total number of accidents when compared with 2023," officials said.

A total of 2,575 people were killed and 11,432 people were injured in road accidents reported in the city in the last three years.

'Self-accidents'

However, there was an increase in the number of 'self-accidents' by 3.34% in 2024, with 210 cases of such accidents where 212 people were killed being reported, as against 203 fatal accidents reported with 209 deaths in 2023.

"In 2024, concrete measures were taken to identify and rectify blackspots in Bengaluru city, particularly those pertaining to pedestrian accidents. The efforts have paid off and there was a significant reduction in pedestrian deaths in 2024, with a reduction of 23.17% when compared with 2023. As many as 233 pedestrians were killed in 2024 as against 287 pedestrian deaths out of 284 cases reported in 2023," the police said.

Using contact and contactless enforcement measures, the police booked 82.8 lakh cases related to traffic violations and collected a fine totalling ₹80.9 crore in 2024. This includes registration of 23,574 drink and drive cases and licences of violators seized for suspension.

A total of 513 drunk drivers were caught in a special drive conducted on Tuesday night.

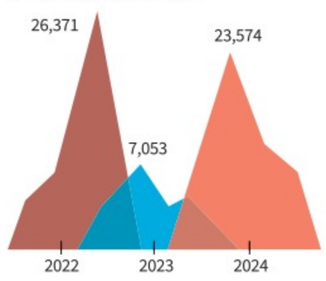
Measures were taken to identify and rectify blackspots ... The efforts paid off and there was a significant reduction in pedestrian deaths, according to police

Road accidents in Bengaluru

Number of accidents reported in the last three years

Year	Total	Fatal	Non-fatal	People killed	Injured
2022	3,822	752	3,070	772	3,189
2023	4,974	882	4,092	910	4,191
2024	4,784	871	3,913	893	4,052

Drink and drive cases



Enforcement

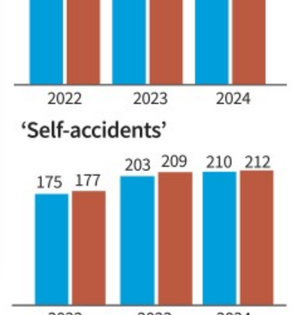
Contact cases
4,79,162

Contactless cases
78,07,399

Total number of cases booked
82,86,561

Fine amount collected (in ₹)
80,90,76,100

Pedestrian deaths



'Self-accidents'

Wheeling cases

Cases booked	Vehicles seized	Persons arrested	Action against no. of minors	Action against no. of guardians	DLs sent for suspension	RCs sent for cancellation
532	520	456	121	79	146	246

The Bengaluru city police recorded a total of 4,784 road accident cases in 2024. FILE PHOTO

Three die in as many road mishaps

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two people were killed and five were injured when the car they were travelling by toppled after the driver lost control of it on the outskirts of Magadi in the early hours of Tuesday.

The deceased have been identified as Manjunath, 31, and his friend Kiran, 30, both residents of Cholanayakanahalli in Magadi.

The victims, along with five friends, were heading to have tea at a restaurant in the wee hours of Tuesday. The driver lost control of the car while negotiating a curve and the vehicle toppled, the police said.

Passers-by rushed to their help and shifted them to a hospital in Magadi where the doctors declared Manjunath and Kiran as "brought dead". The others are being treated and said to be recovering.

In a similar incident, four people, including a woman, were injured when the car they were travelling by crashed into an electricity pole on Tuesday night at Bellandur here. The injured, who are working in a private firm, had been to Koramangala and were returning to Yemlur. The police and marshals deployed nearby shifted the injured to a hospital.

The Bellandur police registered a case of 'self accident'.

In another incident, a 45-year-old pedestrian was killed when a motorcycle rider knocked him down at Hosapete Circle in Magadi in the early hours of Wednesday. The injured motorcycle rider, identified as Mohan, was admitted to hospital.

Music festival in city from February 19 to 23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 16th annual music festival titled 'Bharat Gandharva Yatra', hosted by the Bharatiya Samagana Sabha, will be held from February 19 to 23 at Chowdiah Memorial Hall at Vyalikaval. Ranjani-Gayatri, Sandeep Narayan, Trichur Brothers, Sai Vignesh, Arya Ambekar, Sooryagayathri, Lakshmi Nagaraj, Indu Nagaraj, Sumanth Manjunath, Shadaj Godkhindi, Ganga Sasidaran, and Arya Banik will perform. The sabha will confer the 13th Samagana Mathanga National Award on Shashank Subramanyam on February 23.

Corporate firms devise policies to help employees with familial responsibilities

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

"When my father's health started to decline due to old age, I found myself struggling with caregiving responsibilities and with my professional commitments. My company supported me with flexible work hours and remote work options. It allowed me to be present for my parents when they needed me the most, while still being able to deliver on my work responsibilities," said an employee of SAP, India.

With conversations around work-life balance taking centre stage in recent times, many corporate companies have begun to devise caregiver policies that provide flexibility and additional facilities to their employees to take care of their ailing family members. From on-site child and elderly care facilities to remote work options, scattered working hours, paid caregiver leaves, increased insurance coverage, counselling services, much more are included in the caregiver policies.

Most companies extend these benefits to employees who are required to take care of their immediate family members like spouse, children, parents or siblings.

"The criteria for identifying someone as a caregiver depends on the relationship and employee's needs. We sometimes extend the benefits to family members like grandparents, aunts or uncles, or cousins. We also consider the nature of the employees' needs. For instance, if they have a child or dependent with special needs or disability that affects their daily functioning," Shweta Mohanty, vice-president, Head of Human Resources, SAP, India.

From on-site child and elderly care facilities to remote work options and much more are included in caregiver policies. FILE PHOTO

Some companies allow employees to take leave from four to 24 weeks in case of a medical emergency which affects them or a family member.

"In our company we have two kinds of options for such leaves. Under one, it is considered as leave of absence and we do not get paid. Under the second option, the company pays 20% of our base salary. These benefits are subject to approval from team leaders and HR executives," said an employee who works in an MNC in Bengaluru.

Community support

The companies also focus on creating an inclusive community of caregivers within the organisation who can support each other in various ways. They invite experts who can hold seminars or workshops on management of caregiver stress with yoga, caregiving methods and mental health.

"We have set up employee resource groups where caregivers can connect as a community, and share, listen, and learn from each other's experiences. These include support groups for parents, including communities like single parents and adoptive parents, caregivers to the neurodiverse, and caregivers to the elderly," said Lakshmi C., senior managing director and lead - Human Resources, Accenture in India.

"We host workshops led by experts, focusing on topics like children's mental health, sex education among children, caring for dependants with disabilities or neurodiverse needs, navigating challenges while caring for elders, and helping women overcome caregiver stress," she added.

Jaya Gupta, an employee in the same company, spoke about how the childcare facilities and community groups offered by the company helped her in her responsibilities as a single mother. "As a single parent to a three-year old, juggling the commute to work while managing childcare and finances was daunting until one-and-a-half years ago, when I enrolled my child in an Accenture-affiliated day-care centre located close to my workplace. Knowing that my child is nearby and well-cared-for brings peace of mind and allows me to focus better on my work. In addition, joining the employee resource group for single parents has been a lifeline. Over time, this group has become a community where we share experiences, and lift each other up, especially during the tougher days," Ms. Gupta said.

Ninth annual convocation of RUAS tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) is hosting its Ninth Annual Convocation Day on Friday at 10.30 a.m.

During the convocation ceremony, thirty-two students will be awarded PhD degrees, 670 students will receive postgraduate degrees and 1,208 will receive undergraduate degrees. As many as 102 students will be awarded gold and silver medals for their academic excellence.

Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), will be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address. RUAS Chancellor M.R. Jayaram will preside over the event.

HC stays criminal proceedings against Telugu actor Hema

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed further proceedings against Telugu film actor Kolla Hema in the criminal case in which a chargesheet was filed against her and other accused persons for the supply and consumption of narcotic drugs at a rave party held near Electronics City in Bengaluru during May 2024.

Interim order

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the interim order on a petition filed by Ms. Hema, 52, who had questioned the chargesheet filed against her under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. The interim order will be in force till the court takes up her petition for further hearing after four weeks.

The court stayed the proceedings by taking note of the submission of the actor's advocate that the chargesheet was filed against her for the offences punishable under Section 27(b) [for consumption of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance] of the NDPS Act based only on the confession statement of the co-accused and that there is no corroborative material to substantiate that she had consumed narcotic drug or psychotropic substance in the party.

Raid by CCB

The Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru city police had raided a rave party and booked cases against several men and women after they tested positive for the presence of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances in their blood samples.

In the case of Ms. Hema, it has been alleged in the chargesheet that she had consumed methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as ecstasy pills.

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IIT Mandi (SOM)	https://som.iitmandi.ac.in/

*IIMs have no role either in the selection process or in the conduct of the programme at IITs.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The projected increase in India's tobacco exports

8 In per cent. The country's tobacco exports will likely cross ₹13,000 crore this year. India is the second largest producer of tobacco in the world after China. It is also the fourth largest producer of Flue-Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco worldwide after China, Brazil and Zimbabwe. PTI

The gross GST collection in the month of December

1.77 In lakh crore. The gross GST collection rose 7.3% year-on-year in December. The central GST collection stood at ₹32,836 crore, State GST at ₹40,499 crore, integrated IGST at ₹47,783 crore and cess at ₹11,471 crore. GST from domestic transactions grew 8.4%. PTI

Death toll from mob killings in Bangladesh in 2024

128 Mob killings in Bangladesh surged after the August revolution last year that toppled the rule of ex-leader Sheikh Hasina. Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading Bangladeshi human rights organisation, said it had recorded at least 128 people killed by mobs in 2024. AFP

Number of accident cases reported in Bengaluru in 2024

4,784 The Bengaluru traffic police said its ongoing efforts have led to a 1.26% reduction in fatal accidents and a 1.90% drop in deaths caused by mishaps in 2024 compared to the previous year. Non-fatal accidents saw a sharper decline of 4.57%. PTI

The increase in migrants crossing the Channel to the U.K.

25 In per cent. The number of irregular migrants arriving in Britain on small boats soared in 2024, data showed on Wednesday, piling pressure on Prime Minister Keir Starmer to stem the Channel crossings. 36,816 people were detected in the Channel last year. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The race for fighters: the IAF's dilemma

China has already fielded two fifth generation fighter jets becoming the only country other than the U.S. to have more than one fifth gen fighter. In comparison, the Indian Air Force is at 31 fighter squadrons, desperately awaiting new inductions and with no fifth gen fighter in the line-up for at least a decade

FULL CONTEXT

Dinakar Peri

In the last two weeks, taking the world by surprise, China unveiled a series of high technology platforms establishing its technological supremacy. These include two stealth fighter jets, the launch of an amphibious naval ship, a new "comprehensive" scientific research ship for global deep-sea exploration, a supersonic civil jet prototype and a new bullet train dubbed the world's fastest. The timing couldn't have been starker, highlighting the widening technological gap with the Indian Air Force (IAF) which is struggling to maintain its fighter squadron strength as modernisation is plagued by delayed deliveries.

Chinese military modernisation

Last week, videos emerged on social media of two stealth fighter jets in tail-less configuration. One of them a massive jet with delta-wing design, featuring three engines hinting at a likely long range, flying over Chengdu in Sichuan province went viral on social media 'X'. Videos of the second smaller jet featuring a smaller twin-engine design with swept wings emerged a day later. Reports suggest that the larger jet was designed by Chengdu Aircraft Corporation while the smaller jet is from the rival Shenyang Aircraft Corporation. However, there has been no official comments from China or from their state media so far on the developments.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) of China has already fielded two fifth generation fighter jets, the medium J-35 and the heavy J-20, becoming the only country other than the U.S. to have more than one fifth gen fighter. With the two new jets, dubbed by many commentators as sixth gen-fighters which is debatable, China has, undoubtedly, taken giant strides in the race.

The recently released report to the U.S. Congress on the military and security developments involving the PRC for 2024 noted that the PLAAF and PLAN (Navy) Aviation together constitute the largest aviation force in the Indo-Pacific region. "The PLAAF is rapidly approaching technology typical of U.S. standards," it noted. The PLAAF and PLAN Aviation continue to field greater numbers of fourth-generation aircraft (now more than 1,300 of 1,900 total fighters, not including trainers) and probably will become a majority fourth-generation force in the next several years, the report added. In addition, the J-35 and J-20 are being added at a phenomenal rate and flight testing of the latest jets indicate a fairly advanced state, and that they have been under development for sometime.

The IAF's modernisation plan

The IAF is at 31 fighter squadrons as against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons, desperately awaiting new inductions and with no fifth gen fighter in the line-up for at least a decade, the only outlier among major countries.

Recent reports state that Pakistan has approved the procurement of 40 J-35s from China.

In an uncanny coincidence, very recently the Defence Ministry has appointed a committee led by the Defence Secretary to look into the overall capability development of the IAF. India has an ambitious plan lined up for the acquisition of over 500 fighter jets, a bulk of them to be indigenously designed and manufactured, majority of them for the IAF. However, these are at various stages of development and manufacturing and their timely deliveries are critical. Of these, the LCA variants will constitute the bulk. There are 83 LCA-Mk1As on order but their deliveries have been delayed as the F-404 engines by General Electric (GE) have been delayed. A deal for 97 additional Mk1As is under discussion. The LCA-Mk2, fifth generation fighter the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and the Twin Engine Deck Based Fighter (TED-BF) for the Navy all have very ambitious development timelines but given the complexity and track record, it has to be seen how soon they are ready and available for induction.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is working on the indigenous development of LCA-Mk2 aircraft and the AMCA, the Defence Ministry informed the Parliamentary standing committee on defence as per a report tabled earlier this month. "The deliveries for LCA-Mk2 and AMCA are expected to commence only into the next decade once the development cycle is successfully completed."

It must be noted that of the current 31 squadrons, the phase out of two MIG-21 squadrons has been extended due to the delayed deliveries of LCA-Mk1A. The Jaguars, Mirage-2000s and MIG-29s will begin going out by the end of the decade. For instance, by 2027-28, the first of the MIG-29s, inducted in the late 1980s, will start going out and by early 2040s, when most of these types will be phased out, some of the early lot of SU-30s will also start going out. The IAF has in all contracted 272 Su-30s, and a deal to procure 12 additional Su-30MKIs to replace the ones lost in accidents has just been signed while a major Sukhoi upgrade programme is in the final stages of approval.

Another critical procurement programme that hasn't progressed for several years is the 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA), a foreign jet intended to be manufactured in India with significant technology transfer. The Request For Information (RFI) for 114 MRFA was issued in April 2019 to global aircraft manufacturers but has since made no progress with even the preliminary Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) from the Government yet to be received. Given the long timelines for the procurement process, and factoring in the time to set up facilities in India and for the jets to roll out, the MRFA is unlikely to be available in significant numbers till the middle of the next decade.

As reported by *The Hindu* recently, in the backdrop of the controversy in the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets, the government is looking at a procurement model that is transparent and non-controversial for the MRFA.

Underscoring this urgency, IAF Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said in October that the MRFA was "needed as of yesterday". The larger and more capable LCA-MK2 is under development and is supposed to do its first flight this October, with December 2027 to be the end of research and development for LCA-Mk2. "If these timelines are met and the MRFA is signed parallelly we are OK. We are not badly off. But if these timelines are pushed, then we need to look at alternatives," the Air Chief had stated.

In October 2022, then IAF chief ACM V. R. Chaudhari conceded that even with the LCA-Mk1A, LCA-Mk2 and the MRFA "we will still be at 35-36 (squadrons) by middle of next decade."

It is pertinent to note that, barring the AMCA which will take sometime the LCA variants and the MRFA are all four gen plus fighters.

On the delay in the LCA-MK1A, a representative of the Ministry informed the House Panel that it "worries all of us". "LCA Mark 1 is dependent on GE-404 engines. The supply of GE-404 engines has been adjusted by GE for the last two years. Due to COVID, their supply chain has broken down. They have not been able to resume yet. They have promised that they will start giving GE engines from March this year, next year onwards, the supply would get stabilised," the representative submitted.

As soon as the engine problem is sorted out, we have planned to make 24 LCAs every year and then 30 every year, the representative stated. On the agreement between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and GE for the licence manufacture of the F-414 engines in India the Ministry representative expressed confidence that it should get it signed in the "next three to four months."

Aero-engine troubles

An aero-engine is likely to remain the single major dependency and the country's Achilles heel for a very long time. Imported engines, directly or 'co-manufactured' will power all indigenous jets and helicopters till the end of this century at the current rate. The license manufacturing for the F-414 engine or the new 110KN engine likely to be co-developed and co-produced with France for the AMCA-Mk2 will still mean that India would be dependent on them for the most critical parts.

It will essentially be between France and the U.S. – U.S. for a part of the fighter fleet and France for the reminder of the fighter fleet and for almost all of the helicopter segment as more indigenous platforms come in.

The country can't claim to be fully self-reliant till it can field an aero-engine that is completely designed and developed in-house.

Need to catch up: Chinese ground crew members inspect a J-20 stealth fighter in Chengdu, in southwest China's Sichuan province in 2011. AP

THE GIST

China unveiled a series of high technology platforms establishing its technological supremacy. These include two stealth fighter jets, the launch of an amphibious naval ship, and a new "comprehensive" scientific research ship for global deep-sea exploration.

India has an ambitious plan lined up for the acquisition of over 500 fighter jets, a bulk of them to be indigenously designed and manufactured. However, these are at various stages of development and manufacturing and their timely deliveries are critical.

An aero-engine is likely to remain the single major dependency and the country's Achilles heel for a very long time.

Search for leopard on Infosys campus still on

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A day after a leopard was sighted on the Infosys campus here, forest authorities continued combing operations there for the second day on Wednesday.

The wildcat has so far not been spotted by the forest teams which are searching the vast campus for capturing it.

Forest personnel using a drone to locate the presence of a leopard on the campus of Infosys. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Deputy Conservator of Forests, Mysuru, I.B. Prabhu Gowda, who is overseeing the operations on the company's Global Education Centre campus here, said there had been no sign of the animal ever since the search operations began. No fresh pug marks had been found. "We have requested the employees to either remain indoors or move around in groups until the issue was resolved."

The operation to track and capture the leopard was launched immediately after the presence of the leopard was confirmed through CCTV footage. Besides a team of 40 forest personnel, a drone was also being used to track the animal.

Dr. Gowda said camera traps had been set up to track the animal, and cages had also been laid at key spots in an attempt to trap and capture the leopard.

"We suspect the animal might have strayed out of the campus and moved to the surrounding region where there are forest-like areas, near Koorgalli and Yelwal. The reason for this opinion is that a leopard was said to have spotted outside the campus. However, we are yet to confirm whether it is the same leopard that was sighted inside the campus," the forest official added.

The DCF said the operation would continue on Thursday till it was ascertained that the leopard had moved off the campus, and a decision on continuation of operations would be taken following the outcome.

Obstruction to flight path near HAL Airport: Building demolished

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

A high rise building constructed beyond permissible limit was found to pose obstruction to the flight path near Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) airport and another structure has been constructed adjacent to the airport without no objection certificate (NOC).

While the former was demolished in 2022, with regard to the latter, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is ascertaining the extent of violation.

These details were revealed in response to a query under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

A query was sought from the Airport Authority of India (AAI), DGCA and HAL seeking details of how many high rise buildings in Bengaluru are posing obstruction to flight paths near HAL Airport and the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) for the last 30 years (Between 1994 till date).

The DGCA and AAI replied that as per its records and latest survey report, KIA does not have any high rise building posing obstruction to its flight path.

These details were revealed in response to a query under RTI. FILE PHOTO

However, HAL in its response said that there are obstacles like trees, poles, antennas, towers and buildings.

"In addition, there is a structure constructed adjacent to HAL Airport without NOC for the location. The top elevation of the structure is being ascertained by DGCA to determine the extent of violation."

To the query on how many buildings have been demolished or removed to ensure that there is no compromise on the flight path, DGCA and AAI replied that for KIA no demolition action was necessitated.

HAL in its response said that a structure constructed beyond the permissible limits by a builder in Koramangala was demolished during 2022.

Though the HAL airport has ceased commercial flight operations since May 2008 after the KIA in Devanahalli was commissioned, it still sees flight movements on a regular basis.

HAL sources said that on an average there are about 100-125 flight sorties per day of which 70% are test flights and the remaining 30% are non-scheduled flights.

"Both the fixed and rotary wing platforms of HAL and the Indian Air Force are flight tested at the airport and there are non-scheduled flights which comprise charter flights including VIP flights and training flights of major domestic carriers," HAL sources said.

Sources added that in addition to these flights, HAL Air Traffic Control (ATC) handles 300 flights which fly over Bengaluru.

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/CUSA/Neuro/18/2024-25 Date: 31.12.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11, invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for supply of:-

CUSA-CAVITRON ULTRASONIC SURGICAL ASPIRATOR

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **02.01.2025** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through KPP Portal is **18.01.2025** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer
Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/Spectrum/4055/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: COMML/MYS/25/2024 dated 26.12.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites for the following work.

S.No	Item of work	Approx.Value
1.	Tender invited for appointment of halt agent at CHANDRAGIRI KOPPAL Halt station situated between Mysuru & Bengaluru section, CHIKANDAVADI train halt station situated between Chickjajur & Chitradurga section over Mysuru Division for a period of five years.	Not applicable.

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 07.02.2025
For details log in : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mysuru
PUB/673/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
DRM/Electrical, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work. **1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No:-** http://www.ireps.gov.in, **2. Date & time of closing of e-tender:-** 21.01.2025 up to 15.00 hrs. 3. **Date & time of opening of e-tender:-** After 15.00 hrs. on 21.01.2025. **Tender No.:** 43/2024-25, **Name of Work:** Provision of hiring of AC for Railway Hospital JU, Officer Rest House JU, Running room JU, DRM office JU and other important locations of JU Division for a period of 05 years. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.):** Rs. 1,28,61,662.00, **Tender No.:** 44/2024-25, **Name of Work:** Repair & maintenance of electrical assets of service buildings, quarters & other nearby installation under Jodhpur Division for a period of Two years, **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.):** Rs. 3,79,34,187.67 For detailed information visit http://www.ireps.gov.in
1514-PS/24
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उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई–निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना
मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं– **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:** 141, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Out post building with 10 bedded barrack at out post Degana, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹73,52,813.87, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹1,47,100.00, **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:**142, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** RPF Out post building with 4 bedded rest room against existing building at out post Nagaur, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹27,94,699.03, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹55,9,00.00, निविदा सूचना संख्या 141 to 142 of 2024–25 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 16.01.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है www.ireps.gov.in
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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS, OFFICE, KOPPAL DISTRICT
No. DDLRK/Out Source Band Javan/e-TENDER/01/2024-25 Dated: 26-12-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender Document for Procurement of Man Power Agency for Bandh peon for KOPPAL DISTRICT Under e-Procurement System

Tender Reference : **DDLRK/O.S.B.P/e-TENDER/01/2024-25** Commencement of issue of Bid document through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka : **26.12.2024.** Last date for submitting clarification if any : -. Pre bid Meeting : **02.01.2025 05.00 PM.** Last date and time for uploading of tender in e-Procurement platform : **10.01.2025 05.30 PM**. Time and date of opening of tenders: Technical Bid : **13.01.2025 10.30.AM.** Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid : **18.01.2025 10.30 AM.** Contact Person for queries : **Deputy Director Of Land Records. Office KOPPAL DISTRICT. PH 9844410602, 9731062389. EMAIL: ddlrkoppal3@gmail.com**. Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication : **Deputy Director Of Land Records. Office KOPPAL DISTRICT**
Note: Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under instructions to Tender Section I of tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.

Sd/- **DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS,**
DIPR/KOPPAL/627/2024-25/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY KOPPAL DISTRICT

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagaluru
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 23/2024-25 Date: 30.12.2024

Tenders are invited by Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru District, as per the above tender notice, from eligible contractors through KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in) for a total of 4 works under the account title: 8443 - Deposit Contribution, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 - Maintenance of District and other Roads, 5054-04-337-0-01-154 - Improvement of District and Other Roads, under the sub-divisions. Details of the capacity to undertake or execution the works (as per Standard Tender Document KW- 1 & 4) should be attached. The contractor can be awarded the contract only if the contractor has the minimum qualifications mentioned in Act 3.

The minimum estimated amount is Rs.16.50 lakhs and the maximum estimated amount is Rs.500.00 lakhs.

The tender for the 4 works should be submitted (by 4.30 pm dated:13.01.2025 for I.No.: 17052, 17026, 16905 & dated:06.01.2025 for I.No.: 13284 (3rd call)) through KPP portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) For further details, the subject manager can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Chikkamagaluru Division, Chikkamagalur.
DIPR/ckm/No.135/24-25/ksmca/1331

Mysore Medical College and Research Institute
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website : www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/
E-mail : mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No.Sup/CR/280/2024-25 December 03, 2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Short term Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of Disposable and other Items to the associated hospitals of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru, for the period of One year or until further orders (which ever is earlier). The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 30.12.2024 and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is 13.01.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
DIPR/DDMYS/1023/KSMCA/693/2024-25

उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे
ई–निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना
मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रों में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती हैं– **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:**137, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Various activities of track related work & extension bridges work in C/W provision of Standard III work at 15 stations on SMR-BME- MBF section under ADEN/Barmer of Jodhpur Division, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹8,62,61,236.32, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹5,81,300.00, **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:**138, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Installation of track mounted automatic Gauge Face Lubricators on curves in the Jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/West, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹4,13,76,977.46, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹3,56,900.00, **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:**139, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Replacement of steel channel sleepers into H Beam Sleeper at Br. No.3 Renewal of chequered plates in girder bridges on Samdari-Bhildi section under ADEN/Samdari of Jodhpur Division, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹5,10,48,155.98, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹4,05,300.00, **ई–निविदा सूचना सं० 2024–25:**140, **कार्य का नाम व स्थान:** Casual renewal of curved Switches, CMS Crossings, Rail on Curves, low insulation glued joints & SEJs in LN-SMR-BLDI section under ADEN/SMR of Jodhpur Division, **अनुमानित लागत रूपये:** ₹1,03,65,641.13, **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** ₹2,01,800.00, निविदा सूचना संख्या 137 to 140 of 2024–25 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 16.01.2025 को 15:00 बजे तक है। वेबसाईट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है www.ireps.gov.in
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE,
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC),
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058.

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

1. On behalf of President of India, sealed **item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-28094541, 28094178)

1	Name of Work	**Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Central Air Conditioning plants (excluding chiller) AHU and other AC systems installed at SCC, MOX-1&2 at Peenya and Technical Complex & IRNSS IDSN, Byalalu, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**	**Providing Air-Conditioning system for UPS Room at 32M Antenna Building & ASTRO SAT building, IDSN, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**
2	E-tenders Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-65/ 2024-2025 Dated: 26.12.2024**	**ISTRAC/CMG/A.C/MAINT/E-Tender-66/ 2024-2025 Dated:26.12.2024**
3	Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 31.64 Lakhs**	**Rs. 16.33 Lakhs**
4	Tender Document details	**E-Tenders**	**E-Tenders**
5	Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**24 (Twenty Four) months with a provision to extend the contract further for a period of one year with same terms and conditions.**	**Two (02) months**
6	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 02.01.2025 to 18.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**	
7	Bid clarification	**From 03.01.2025 to 19.01.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**	
8	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**20.01.2025 up to 16.00 hrs**	
9	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**21.01.2025 up to 16.00 hrs**	
10	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**22.01.2025 after 11.00 hrs**	
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 63,280.00**	**Rs. 32,660.00**

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website:**www.isro.gov.in.** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head,CMG

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**
Tender Notification No: DEDASC/2024-25/IND0051 Dated: 01.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) system from the original vehicle equipment manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of approximate **476 Motorised** Two Wheeler 124CC and above (Gearless) (Tubeless Tyre) (BS- VI) with Retro fitment of additional two wheels attachment for the use of severely affected orthopedically handicapped persons for the year 2024-25 (Approximate bid amount is **Rs.500.00 Lakhs**) The interesting bidders may see further details and may login in website : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The tender can be submitted on or before 1**4.01.2025 till 04.30pm**. Pre-bid meeting is on **06.01.2025 at 3.00 pm**, the technical bid will be opened on **15.01.2025 at 04.35 pm** and the financial bid will be opened on **17.01.2025 at 12.00pm**. Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of
Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4070/Zen/2024-25

Karnataka Bank Ltd. 100
Your Family Bank. Across India.
Asset Recovery Management Branch,
1st Floor, FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Phone: 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(AGM)
E-Mail: blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website: https://karnatakabank.com
CIN: L85110KA1924PLC001128

PUBLIC E-AUCTION
NOTICE OF SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ON 05.02.2025

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) / Rule 9 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Constructive Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer (details mentioned below), will be sold on **"As is where is"and "As is what is" basis on 05.02.2025** at the below mentioned timings for recovery of dues with further interest and cost thereon due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

The details are as under: Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposits details are as under & the Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before **04.02.2025 at 4.00 pm** through online payment to the Account No. details of which are given below or by way of DD favouring **Karnataka Bank Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors/ Co-Obligants and Loan Account No.	Balance O/S Rs. Future Interest From + Costs	Possession Date Possession Type	Description of the Property/ies	Reserve Price (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.	Auction Time	Increment al Value of the Bid	Branch Name & Account Details for Remitting EMD/ IFSC Code
1	**(1) Mrs. Manjula P** W/o Late. Ramesh S **(2) Mr. Shashidhar S** S/o Late. Shamanna B M **(3) Mrs. Kavitha S** W/o Shashidhar K **(4) Miss. Bindushree R** D/o Late. Ramesh S **(5) Miss. Komala R** D/o Late. Ramesh S **All are addressed at: No.** 229, "Vinay Nilaya", 10th Cross, Bellandur, Marathahalli Post, Ring Road, Bengaluru-560103 **No.2 and 3 also at:** No.202, Home Space Hampton Court Apartment, Bellandur, Bengaluru-560103. **Loan A/c No.: TL A/c No.9227001600016601**	**Rs. 2,38,52,267.40** 15.12.2024	19.10.2024 Constructive	All that part and parcel of **Commercial Property** measuring **(15,360 sq ft as per records) 12,016 Sq.ft. bearing Khatha No.1068/1147/72/1 (Old Bellandur VP Khatha No.1147/72/1),** bearing Portion of the converted land in Sy.No.72/1 of Bellandur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, within the BBMP limits, Bengaluru-560103 together with commercial building constructed thereon belonging to **Mr.Ramesh S (since deceased represented by legal heirs) and Mr.Shashidhar S. Boundaries of Property as per Document: East :** 30 feet Road, **West :** Private Property (Land of Krishnappa), **North:** Ring Road, **South:** Portion of Sy.No.72/1.	**Rs. 22,26,50,000/-**	**Rs. 2,22,65,000/-**	**1.00 P.M to 1.20 P.M**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – J P Nagar 7th Phase A/c No. 9223500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000922**
2	**I) (1) Mrs.Himani Jain,** W/o Ankith Jain, **(2) Mr.Dhanender Kumar Jain,** S/o Manakchand Jain, **(3) Mr.Ankith Jain,** S/o Mr.Dhanender Kumar Jain, **All are Residing at:** Flat No.S9-101, 1st Floor, Green Wood Regency Apartment, Sarjapura Main Road, Doddakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560035 **II) (1) Mr.Ankith Jain,** S/o Mr.Dhanender Kumar Jain, **(2) Mrs.Himani Jain,** W/o Ankith Jain, **Both are residing at:** Flat No.S9-101, 1st Floor, Green Wood Regency Apartment, Sarjapura Main Road, Doddakanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560035. **Loan A/c Nos.: I. Mrs.Himani Jain TL A/c No.9107001600002801 II. Mr.Ankith Jain OD A/c No.9107000100000701**	**Total Rs. 25,56,554.34 [I. Mrs.Himani Jain Rs.12,39,791.48 18.12.2024 II. Mr.Ankith Jain Rs.13,16,762.86 01.12.2024]**	05.09.2024 Constructive	All that part and parcel of **Residential 3BHK Flat** property bearing **No. S9-101,** in the First Floor of the Apartment building by name **"Green Wood Regency"** Apartment, constructed on **Sy. No.63/2,** having Super Built up area of **1953.60 sq.ft. and UDS of 1562.86 Sq.ft.** along with undivided right, title, and interest and one covered car parking at basement of the Apartment building, situated at Doddakannahalli Village, Sarjapura Main Road, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru-560035 belonging to **Mrs. Himani Jain. Boundaries of the Flat : East By:** Lift and Corridor, **West By:** Open to Sky, **North By:** Flat No.S9-102, **South By:** Open to Sky.	**Rs. 1,39,00,000/-**	**Rs. 13,90,000/-**	**10.30 A M to 10.50 A.M**	**Rs. 1,00,000/-**	**Karnataka Bank Ltd Branch: Bengaluru – Bellandur A/c No. 9103500200004101 IFSC: KARB0000910**

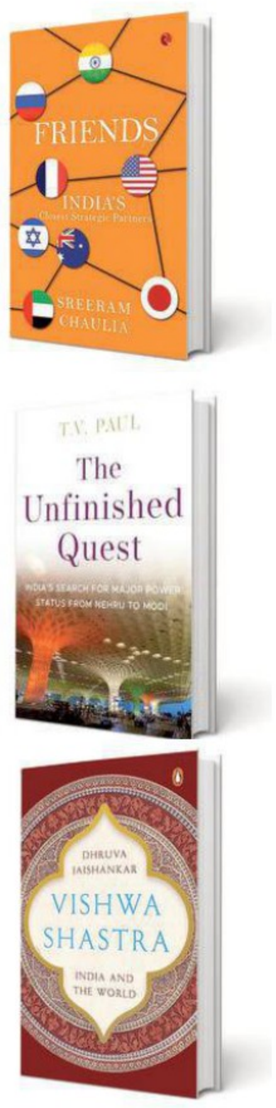
(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
(This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule 8/Sub Rule (1) of Rule 9 of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors).
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website i.e. https://karnatakabank.com under the head "Auction Notice".
The E-auction will be conducted through portal www.auctionbazaar.com on **05.02.2025** at above mentioned time with unlimited extension of 05 minutes. The intending bidder is required to register their name at **www.auctionbazaar.com** and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training i.e. online training on E-auction (tentatively on **04.02.2025**) from **M/s ARCA EMART PVT LTD** (Known by their **website: www.auctionbazaar.com**) Auction Bazaar, 7-1-28/1/A/1, Park Avenue 1, Ameerpet, Begumpet, Hyderabad, Secunderabad, Telangana, India – 500016, **Contact No. :** 7799728999, E-mail : **contact@auctionbazaar.com and disposal.karnataka@auctionbazaar.com.**

Date : 30.12.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Assistant General Manager & Authorised Officer, Karnataka Bank Ltd.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The long game: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by the Indian diaspora on his arrival at DuPont Hotel, Wilmington, Delaware on September 21. ANI



In search of a 'grand strategy' for India's foreign policy in the 21st century

Three writers explore the past and present of India's relations with the world, and ties in the neighbourhood, to trace the path ahead. In doing so, they ask what should India's strategy be and explain why veering away from its traditionally peaceable and liberal ethos is not the way forward

Suhasini Haidar

For as long as states have had conflicts, thinkers have tried to set out the terms of a "grand strategy" of a country, one that draws together its national power and resources with its diplomatic, military and economic ambitions. For India's Chanakya (*Arthashastra*), or for military generals like Thucydides (*History of the Peloponnesian War*), Sun Tzu (*The Art of War*) and Carl von Clausewitz (*On War*), the focus was on how to wage war. Amidst present-day realities of relative peace, their writings are now quoted in books on battles for diplomatic influence instead.

Friends and allies

At least three recent books have aimed to look at a 'grand strategy' for Indian foreign policy in the 21st century, harking in some measure to ancient strategic wisdom. In *Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners*, Professor at Jindal University Sreeram Chaulia writes about the seven countries he thinks are India's most important allies, including Japan, Australia, the U.S., Russia, France, Israel and the UAE. While none of the partnerships constitutes an "alliance", he speaks instead of the need for friendships for India's strategy to "assume its destiny as a leading power" of the world. Chaulia's argument for a world of friendships is three-fold. One, that India cannot depend on a multilateral framework to advance on this path and needs specific bilateral relationships to power it forward. The second, India's friends are by and large those who believe in Indian strategic autonomy. The third, that these friends are invested in India using its strategic independence as a countervailing or deterrent challenge to Chinese hegemony. There are obvious exceptions to these rules. The U.S. may not be a fan of Indian strategic autonomy – U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti recently indicated in a speech that in conflict, partners must choose sides. Russia aims to bring India and China closer (as President Putin sought at the recent BRICS summit with a Narendra Modi-Xi Jinping meet after years). It is also clear that none of India's neighbouring countries qualify in Chaulia's calculus as countries that can help India's rise, a thesis by exclusion that many Indian thinkers would disagree with. The book is remarkable, however, for its clarity of thought in an age where writers often hedge their bets, in line with India's own amorphous and sometimes ambiguous foreign policy choices. The organisation of the chapters, with one for each of India's friends chosen by Chaulia is also helpful, especially for students of each of these important relationships.

Positioning India's strengths

Also out this season is McGill University Professor T.V. Paul's excellent *The Unfinished Quest: India's Search for Major Power Status from Nehru to Modi*. If Chaulia's 'Friends', works within the silos of each relationship, Paul's 'Quest' flows chronologically from India's independence, in a treatise on Indian power and its practical past. Long before External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that India's ambitions have shifted from being a "balancing power" to a "leading power", Paul points out the Nehru had visualised India as "one of the "four great powers of the post-war international system", along with the U.S., the Soviet Union and China. Paul also, correctly, positions India's civilisational attributes, including the cultural and religious aspects, now at the forefront of the Modi government's diplomatic forays, as part of its "soft power", adding that the status of "Vishwaguru" or even "Vishwamitra" would elude India if it veers from its traditionally peaceable and liberal ethos that contribute to it. Paul's evaluation of India's economic and military heft is well researched and worth reading, particularly as he presents them in absolute and comparative terms to other global powers. Unlike Chaulia, Paul does carry a chapter on "The Neighbours", but like Chaulia, he concludes that India's global status will increase even without gaining leverage in South Asia.

The turning point

Finally, there's Dhruva Jaishankar's *Viswa Shastra: India and The World*, a scholarly recounting of Indian foreign policy over the ages, that begins with ancient strategic treatises, goes through pre-independence foreign policy thought, followed by the first few decades of the Indian Republic. Jaishankar marks 1991 as a significant turning point of "fundamental change" in Indian foreign policy – broadly as a reaction to global events like the Gulf war, Israel-Palestine peace process, the collapse of the Soviet Union and withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the resultant period of U.S.-led unipolarity in the world. Jaishankar, the third in his family line of strategic thinkers, weaves the intricacies of India's foreign policy past with considerable ease, leading up to the present period in 2024. Part 1, "History", is scrupulously well presented, followed by Part 2 titled "Strategy", where it is possible for different schools of foreign policy thinking to differ. Jaishankar lists 14 "priorities" for Indian strategy, ranging from the need to improve military and industrial capabilities, securing partnerships in the Indian Ocean, ASEAN region and Middle East/West Asia, to strengthening multilateral institutions. Jaishankar sets his case on India's challenges by simply saying that "China's rise is likely the primary factor influencing India's grand strategy", and the other priorities he lists – on managing China, working with the Quad and others in the Indo-Pacific etc – speak to this understanding. Unlike Chaulia and Paul, Jaishankar puts much more focus on India's ties with its neighbours, including Afghanistan (Prioritise Neighbours, Talk to Afghanistan), making an exception for Pakistan (Compel Pakistan) for which he recommends a different treatment.

All three books mark a refreshing departure from strategic works of the past decade that focused on the Modi "moment" in Indian foreign policy post-2014. Those works had portrayed policies of the Modi/UPA government as a break from the past, often mistaking innovations such as public rallies for the diaspora, personalised summit-level diplomacy (the Sabarmati swing with Xi or the car ride in the Beast with Obama), social media usage and the promotion of yoga, meditation, Hindi and Sanskrit, the scriptures etc for transformational foreign policy. On this, all ancient strategic thinkers such as Chanakya, Clausewitz et al were clear – a key component of effective policy formation is the ability to discern grand strategy from tactics.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral was reopened in December following extensive restoration work to fix the effects of a 2019 fire. A quiz in its honour

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Together with the Amiens, Chartres, and Reims cathedrals, the Notre-Dame de Paris is an example of which style of architecture? Structures built in this style tend to be tall, with additional architectural features designed to divert the resulting weight.

QUESTION 2

Authorities commissioned restoration work on the Notre-Dame de Paris between 1844 and 1864 after a particular 1831 event. Name/describe the event.

QUESTION 3

The term 'cathedral' comes from cathedra, a characteristically raised throne reserved for the _____, denoting this individual's authority in Catholic Christianity. Perhaps its most famous form is in the Cathedra Petri in Rome. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Between the 14th century and 1766, the only clocks at the Notre-Dame de Paris were in the form of two _____. These devices measured the passage of time by allowing water to flow into or out of a vessel, with its volume denoting the time. Their name in Ancient Greece means 'water thief'. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

Until November 1789, the Notre-Dame de Paris belonged to the Catholic Church, but a particular event moved its ownership to the state of France in that year. In 1905, the French government allowed the Catholic Church to use the cathedral for religious purposes forever. Name the event.

Visual question:
This is a depiction at the cathedral of a mythological bird that, in antiquity, was associated with witches and ill omen. Name the bird.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. According to India's national calendar, this is the first day of the year. **Ans: March 22, and for leap year March 21**
2. The Calendar Reform Committee in 1952 was headed by this person. **Ans: Professor Meghnad Saha**
3. The different calendars the committee examined before selecting the Vikram Samvat. **Ans: 32. Thirty were from different States of the country, one was the lunar Hijri Islamic calendar and another was the solar Gregorian calendar.**
4. This Iranian poet and philosopher devised the rules for a leap year. **Ans: Omar Khayyam**
5. The unified Saka Calendar was adopted with effect from March 21, 1956 A.D. Saka refers to this. **Ans: Saka refers to Scythians who ruled from Ujjain between 130-395 CE**
Visual: Name this American movie. **Ans: *Ocean's Eleven***
Early Birds: Nobody got all the answers correct

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"She graduated last year. And she got the gold medal. But companies won't give her a job because she doesn't have any experience. How can she get any experience if nobody gives her a job? It's really crazy."

"It's a catch-22 situation."

"Catch-22! What's that?"

"A catch-22 is a 'condition whereby one fails no matter what action is taken because of a paradoxical rule or situation'."

"You mean, no matter what you do, you just can't win."

"It's a no-win situation. Take, for example, your friend's case. In order to get a job, she needs experience and in order to get experience, she needs a job. It's a paradox. A classic catch-22 situation."

"I think I'm beginning to understand. But tell me why is it called catch-22 and not catch-25 or 24?"

"Catch-22 is the title of a novel by Joseph Heller."

"O.K. And what was the absurd rule or catch-22 in the novel?"

"Read the novel and find out for yourself. I'm going to the library presently. If you want..."

"...You're going to the library right now?"

"In a short while from now. 'Presently' means 'in a little while, soon'. For example, I can say, the theatre will open presently."

"The Minister will be here presently."

"It's PREsently. The stress is on the first syllable."

"O.K. But I thought 'presently' meant 'right now'?"

"Well, you're right. The Americans use 'presently' to mean 'at present, now'. The divorce rate in India is presently at its highest level. My cousin is presently living in USA."

"Is he a U.S. citizen?"

"No, but he's a resident of Georgia."

"What exactly is the difference between a 'resident' and a 'citizen'?"

"A 'citizen' is someone who shares in the political rights of a country. For example, unless you are a citizen of India, you cannot vote during the elections. A 'resident', on the other hand, is someone who stays in a particular place. For example, I can be a resident of Paris, London or Geneva."

"And just because you're a resident of Paris, it doesn't mean you're a citizen of France. Is that correct?"

"Exactly. You can stay or reside in another country without being its citizen. But remember, if you're just a resident, you have no political rights."

"I'm not eligible to vote anyway!"

Published in The Hindu on August 2, 1994.

Word of the day

Zeitgeist:

the spirit of the time; the spirit characteristic of an age or generation

Synonyms: feel, flavour, spirit, tone

Usage: *The novel captures the zeitgeist of the late 1960s.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/zeitgeistpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtsaɪtˌgaɪst/, /ˈzaɪtˌgaɪst/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

10 public varsities do not have any permanent teaching staff

There are 32 public universities in State and 2,723 teaching posts and 6,328 non-teaching posts in them are vacant

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

There is a dire shortage of teaching and non-teaching staff in public universities across Karnataka and as many as 10 of them do not have a single permanent employee in either category.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, established in 2017, has 17 teaching and 49 non-teaching posts sanctioned, but no post has been filled so far. Similar is the fate of Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, which has sanctioned posts of 15 teaching and 19 non-teaching staff, but all of them are vacant.

The government has not yet filled any post with permanent staff in Mandya University, Nrupatunga University, Haveri University, Hassan University, Kodagu University, Koppal University, Bidar University, and Chamarajanagar University.

Currently, the staff who opted in with the new universities have been continued as permanent staff. Otherwise, academic activities are continuing in the universities by appointing guest faculty members against the vacant teaching posts. And, administration activities are continuing by appointing staff on outsourced basis.

"Due to the shortage of teaching and non-teaching staff, the quality of education in public universities is declining, and student enrolment is also declining year by year. This issue was also seriously discussed in the recent Bangalore University Syndicate meeting," said a university professor.

The campus of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Varsities with unfilled sanctioned posts

University	Sanctioned teaching posts	Sanctioned non-teaching posts
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru	17	49
Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University, Mysuru	15	19
Mandya University	92	253
Nrupatunga University	100	34
Haveri University	59	167
Hassan University	27	425
Kodagu University	80	108
Koppal University	12	34
Bidar University	29	108
Chamarajanagar University	36	90

There are 32 public universities in the State, and the State government has sanctioned a total of 4,709 teaching posts and 9,317 non-teaching posts for them. However, only 1,986 teaching posts and 2,989 non-teaching posts have been filled so far and 2,723 teaching posts and 6,328 non-teaching posts remain vacant.

The shortage of staff is also plaguing old universities, with 379 teaching posts in the University of Mysore, 414 in Karnatak University, 234 in Bangalore University, 150 in Bengaluru City University, 141 in Mangalore University, and 170 in Gulbarga University facing a shortage.

Karnataka University is in the top place in the shortage of non-teaching staff with 849 posts. There is a shortage of 780 staff members in Bangalore University, 425 in Hassan University, 372 in Mangalore University, 366 in Mysore University, and 306 in Kuvempu University.

Academic activities hit

"Due to the shortage of permanent teaching staff, we are recruiting guest lecturers and conducting academic activities. If the situation continues like this, many departments will not even have a head of the department (HOD) in a couple of years. Guest lecturers cannot be appointed as HODs. Due to this, the quality of education in public universities is declining and students are turning towards private universities. If the decline in student enrollment continues like this, public universities will not exist in the coming years," a professor from Bangalore University said.

"The previous BJP government in the State unscientifically established seven new universities. However, it did not provide the necessary infrastructure and it did not appoint the staff either. Although proposals have been submitted to the government several times for appointing staff members, no action has been taken. How can we run the university with only four or five permanent staff?," the Vice-Chancellor of a State university asked.

M.C. Sudhakar, Minister of Higher Education, said, "The government is aware of the shortage of permanent staff members in the universities. Guest lecturers have been appointed so that academic activities do not suffer. Steps have been taken to submit a proposal to the Finance Department to fill the vacancies, including teaching and non-teaching posts."

2.76 lakh vacancies in State govt. depts.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In addition to vacancies in universities, a total of 2,76,386 posts remain vacant in all departments of the government across the State.

Out of this, the highest number of posts are vacant in the Department of School Education and Literacy – 70,727 posts, including 60,219 teacher posts.

In the Health and Medical Education Department, 37,069 posts, including 2,488 Grade-1 posts, are vacant. In the Higher Education Department, a total of 13,227 posts, including 4,090 Grade-1 posts, are to be filled.

Midday meal workers to get lump sum amount as retirement benefit

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has ordered to provide a lump sum amount of ₹40,000 to midday meal workers across the State who retire at the age of 60, having worked for a minimum of 15 years. The sum will be ₹30,000 for those who have worked for more than five years but less than 15.

Under the midday meal scheme, more than 1.19 lakh people are working in government and aided schools across the State, preparing and serving food to more than 55 lakh children. However, since midday meal workers are not government employees, they have hitherto not got any retirement benefit or gratuity when they retired from service.

The workers had been staging protests for many years demanding benefits, including a lump sum amount of ₹1 lakh on retirement at 60.

Proposal submitted

The Commissioner of the Department of School Education and Literacy had submitted a proposal to the government that a one-time benefit of ₹ 20,000 for those who have served five to 10 years, ₹25,000 for those who have served 11 to 15 years, ₹30,000 for those who have served 16 to 20 years, ₹31,000 for those who have served 21 years, and ₹32,000 for those who have served above 22 years be granted to the midday meals workers appointed under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman Yojana (midday meal scheme) and completed 60 years of age.

Midday meal workers have staged protests for many years demanding various benefits, including payment of a lump sum amount of ₹1 lakh on retirement at 60. FILE PHOTO

The government examined this proposal and ordered payment of a lump sum amount of ₹30,000 to those who have served for more than five years and less than 15 years and ₹40,000 to those who have served for 15 years and more. This benefit will be applicable for midday meal workers who were released from duty on or after March 31, 2022, upon completion of 60 years.

Midday meals workers have welcomed the decision but demanded that this benefit should also be given to those workers who have turned 60 and dismissed from their jobs without being given any benefit.

For dismissed workers

S. Varalakshmi, State president of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, said, "We welcome the State government's decision. For the first time in the country, the system of providing a lump sum amount to midday meal workers is being implemented in Karnataka. However, the Finance Department approved this benefit on July 16, 2024, but in the meantime, the government has sacked more than 10,000 workers who have turned 60. Therefore, we urge the government that this benefit should also be given to them too."

Carnatic vocal recital today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 20th 'Maargasheershotsava', organised by Surabharathi Sanskrit and Cultural Foundation, will feature a Carnatic vocal concert by Pantula Rama on Thursday at 6.30 p.m. The concert will be held on the foundation premises, 9th Main, Service Road, next to Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board water tank, 1st Block, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru.

Jaipur foot fitment camp from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 27th Jaipur foot fitment camp will be held from January 3 to 9.

Organised by Rotary Bangalore Peenya and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayatha Samithi, Jaipur, the camp will be held at Ganesh Bagh, Sri SSBS Jain Sangh Trust, No. 3, Infantry Road, Bengaluru.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 02		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:05
RISE	08:45	SET 20:29
FRIDAY, JAN. 03		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:06
RISE	09:31	SET 21:26
SATURDAY, JAN. 04		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:06
RISE	10:14	SET 22:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	21
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	27	17

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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India's weatherman is all set to turn 150 on Jan. 15

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

From a common conversation starter to the deciding factor for agricultural output, weather occupies an important place. And, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been telling people about sunny, rainy, and wintery days for over a century now. Come January 15, and the IMD, established in 1875, will be completing 150 years of service.

According to the department, the IMD is one of the earliest government departments created for systematic observation, regular reporting, and scientific forecasting of weather in the Indian subcontinent.

Infrastructure

In terms of infrastructure, India has some of the oldest meteorological observatories in the world. However, the instrumental era of science and meteorology in India commenced with the establishment of the first Meteorological and Astronomical Observatory in (then) Madras in 1793. While the number gradually increased since then, the standards of instruments, and the time of observations were not fixed and the observations could not be utilised for predicting purposes. A group of scientists in the Asiatic Society of Bengal was also following up a scientific revolution to establish a national meteorological committee for standardising the instruments, exchanging data and utilising data for cyclone and flood disaster management and finding out the relationship between diseases and weather in India, explained an IMD document on its evolution.

A file photo of the surface observatory station of the India Meteorological Department in Bengaluru.

"The Asiatic Society of Bengal represented to the Governor General in 1857. It was followed up by the formation of the Sanitation Committee in 1860 and finally, the Meteorological Committee at the provincial level was set up. Considering the limitations of provincial committees as the data were not exchanged, no guidance was generated at the all-India level and there was no uniformity and standardisation, the Asiatic Society of Bengal again reiterated the need for a National Meteorological Committee. Finally, the Governor General Council agreed to form the national committee. The India Meteorological Department was established in 1875 with H.F. Blanford as the Meteorological Reporter," the document stated.

Major breakthroughs

Among its major breakthroughs through its evolution were the preparation of the first chart in 1877, preparation of the first Daily Weather Report in 1878, preparation of climatology based on long-term observational data, followed by the commencement of radar age and flood Met services between 1947-1959, the commencement of the global satellite era in 1960-1970, global monitoring and better forecasting up to 24 hours in 1971-1983, the Indian Satellite era in 1984-1990, and the age of modernisation in 2006-13.

Between 2014 and 2023, there was rapid advancement in observation, communication and modelling facilities, paradigm shift in forecasting accuracy and services, and significant improvement in all fronts, including meteorological observations, communication, modelling, and infrastructure. "Accordingly, there was rapid enhancement of weather and climate services and also the forecast accuracy improved by 40-50%," the document says.

Importance today

C.S. Patil, Scientist and Director, IMD Bengaluru, said now, with changes in weather patterns, increase in temperature, and an increasing number of extreme weather events across the world, the importance of the met department and its work has been cemented further. "Meteorological services are today utilised in various sectors such as aviation, shipping, fisheries, flood management, and agriculture to minimise the loss of life and property," he said.

Maternal deaths: BJP women's wing to protest seeking resignation of two Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP women's wing is set to hold protests from Thursday demanding the resignation of Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar for their alleged failure to stop a series of maternal deaths in the State. Announcing this at a press conference here on Wednesday, BJP women's wing State president, Manjula, alleged that these Ministers had failed to take any effective measures to prevent maternal deaths in government hospitals.

She alleged that Ms. Hebbalkar had not even visited the families of any deceased persons so far in connection with maternal deaths.

The women's wings of the districts would stage protests from Thursday in five districts a day, she said.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, took exception to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's statement that there was no need for RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge to quit just because the BJP was demanding his resignation with respect to the suicide of a contractor who had alleged that the Minister's close aide was harassing him.

BUSINESS CONNECT
A Business Initiative

Escon Genset Company launched the CPCB IV+ gensets in Bengaluru

Escon Genset Company, the authorized manufacturer of products for Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, launched the CPCB IV+ gensets in Bengaluru. The launch was done by Sumit Gupta, General Manager of Mahindra Powerol, and Prashanth Dandhaniya, Managing Director of Escon Genset. These gensets, manufactured at Dabaspet, feature advanced technology with common rail diesel engines. They are designed for high fuel efficiency and heavy-duty performance. Additionally, they emit significantly less pollution than the standards set by the Pollution Control Board. The company stated that customer service centers are available everywhere to promptly address any queries or complaints related to the gensets.

HAL's First Foundation Day Celebrations after Maharatna Status Focuses on Strategies for Future

Recently HAL observed its 85th & first Foundation Day after achieving the Maharatna status with a number of former CMDs, Directors, CEOs, and others participating in a celebration that focused on the way forward and on how to sustain the growth. The chief guest Mr. Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, MP, in his message traced the history of the company since its foundation by Walchand Hirachand in 1940 and urged HAL to maintain the momentum and carry on the legacy of excellence in developing the defence ecosystem of the country. A commemorative book titled 'Flights of Inspiration, HAL's Maharatna Story' was released on the occasion. Dr D K Sunil, CMD, HAL gave a brief presentation on HAL's future ambitions that would propel HAL to the global stage through strategic internal transformation initiatives. The former CMDs besides sharing interesting vignettes of their times addressed the gathering and hailed HAL's rise over the years. They called upon employees to be mindful of challenges ahead, opportunities in the future and be prepared to meet the demands of armed forces in an efficient and time bound manner. Mr A B Pradhan, Director (HR) proposed a vote of thanks.

Nayara Energy Launches "Sab ki Jeet Guaranteed 2024" with Savings of Up to ?5 per Liter on Fuel

Nayara Energy, India's largest private fuel retailer and a prominent player in the downstream energy sector, has unveiled its highly anticipated festive season offer–"Sab ki Jeet Guaranteed 2024". Running until January 31, 2025, the initiative offers consumers unparalleled savings of up to ?5 per liter on petrol and diesel purchases, making it one of the most rewarding schemes in the sector. This second edition of Nayara Energy's annual saving scheme aims to deliver real value to customers by combining tangible savings with a seamless digital experience. The scheme underscores the company's focus on customer-centricity and innovation in fueling services, catering to diverse needs across urban and rural markets. Madhur Taneja, CMO, Nayara Energy, emphasized the significance of the initiative, stating, "At Nayara Energy, we are committed to creating meaningful value for our customers. The 'Sab ki Jeet Guaranteed' scheme not only offers unmatched savings but also encourages digital payments, providing a secure and cashless fueling experience in line with India's growing digital transformation. By positioning itself as the go-to fueling destination, Nayara Energy continues to raise the bar in customer engagement. This initiative not only delivers value but also aligns with the company's vision to redefine the fueling experience for millions of consumers across India. For any queries please write to : Nayara Energy - communications@nayaraenergy.com

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State projected to borrow ₹48,000 cr. in 12 weeks of January-March quarter

Govt. borrowings increased in recent years owing to implementation of social welfare schemes, particularly five guarantees

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Karnataka is projected to make borrowings of ₹4,000 crore each in every week in the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-2025.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's indicative borrowing calendar for the quarter, Karnataka has projected a market borrowing of ₹48,000 crore in the 12 weeks of the January-March quarter.

The weekly schedule of auctions to be held during the January-March quarter along with Karnataka and other States/UTs, who have confirmed participation and indicated tentative amounts, has been drawn up.

According to estimates, the government is expected to spend nearly ₹60,000 crore on executing the guarantee schemes.. FILE PHOTO

Quantum of borrowings

The RBI, in consultation with the State governments/UTs, announced that the quantum of total market borrowings by various State governments/UTs for the quarter January-March 2025 is expected to be ₹4,73,477.00 crore.

The RBI, in its release, said it would conduct the auctions in a non-disruptive manner, taking into account the market conditions and other relevant factors and distribute the borrowings evenly throughout the quarter. The RBI has reserved the right to modify the dates and the amount of auction in consultation with the State government, the release said.

Market borrowing are raised by the State governments from the public and

Karnataka, like other States, in recent years has been increasingly relying on the open market for its borrowings

managed by the RBI through issue of marketable securities.

Budget presentation

In the State Budget for 2024-2025, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the finance portfolio, estimated that the government would borrow ₹1,05,246 crore. The Chief Minister is expected to present his 15th Budget in March.

Karnataka's borrowings increased in recent years owing to implementation of social welfare schemes, particularly the five guarantees by the Congress government. The State's borrowings stood at ₹44,549 crore in 2022-2023 and increased to ₹85,818 crore in 2023-2024.

According to estimates, the government is expected to spend nearly ₹60,000 crore on executing the guarantee schemes. According to Basavaraj Rayareddy, Congress MLA and economic adviser to the Chief Minister, the State government is expected to borrow ₹85,000 crore in the current fiscal year (2024-25). Nearly 50% of the borrowings would be repaid in the form of interest and principal amount for loans borrowed in the past, he says.

Outstanding liabilities

Karnataka, like other States, in recent years has been increasingly relying on the open market for its borrowings. The State's outstanding liabilities include public debt, public account liabilities, and off-Budget borrowings have increased during the last three years.

According to PRS Legislative Research, at the end of 2024-25, the State's outstanding liabilities are estimated to be 24% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), higher than the revised estimate for 2023-24 (23% of GSDP).

IML sales decline by 1.02%; beer sales drop in last three months

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In what has surprised the liquor industry, the overall rate of growth in sale of liquor and excise collection has been weak this financial year despite rationalisation in the cost of IML (Indian Made Liquor) to make the price competitive. While IML sales have been down by 1.02% over the corresponding period of last year, beer sales has shown only 8.22% growth, raising doubts about meeting the annual excise revenue target by the end of last quarter.

Against a total sale of 533.26 lakh carton boxes of IML in the first nine months of the last financial year, sale this year is at 527.82 lakh carton boxes. However, the sale of beer has increased from 324.40 lakh carton boxes to 351.07 lakh carton boxes this fiscal.

So far, the total excise revenue collection has been ₹26,633 crore, a 4.63% rise from ₹25,455 crore collected last year. The total collection is about 69.13% of the target of ₹38,525 crore set for the financial year 2024-2025. Last year, the State had met 73.78% of the target of ₹34,500 crore by the end of December.

Though the Finance Department is expecting rationalisation of liquor rates to show results over four quarters, general secretary of Federation of Wine Merchants' Association B. Govindraj Hedge said the retailers have no clue over IML sales still not picking up. "Even in December, when sales have to be good, we have not had satisfactory sales. The government also extended credit facilities to the retailers to lift the stock due to bank holidays that would have otherwise hurt business."

Fact sheet

- Excise revenue target for 2024-2025 – **₹38,525 crore**
- Excise revenue collected till December 2024 – **₹26,633 crore** or 69.13% of target
- Total sale of IML – **527.82 lakh carton** boxes, down by 1.02% over 2023-2024
- Total sale of beer – **351.07 lakh** carton boxes, increase by 8.22 % over 2023-2024

The excise revenue collection in December this year has been about ₹2,900.14 crore, down by 11.78% or about ₹387.24 crore compared to ₹3,287.38 crore collected in December 2023. This despite a 10.18% growth or a collection of ₹774.53 crore excise revenue between December 23 and December 31, which was boosted by Christmas holidays and New Year revelry. Last year, during the same period, the excise revenue had seen dip by 5.58% over the revenue collection in 2022-2023.

Though the sale of beer has registered 8.22% growth with a total of 351.07 lakh carton boxes sold this year, the third quarter sales has shown negative growth. While 113.15 lakh carton boxes had been sold between October and December 2023, the total beer sales significantly dropped to 108.34 lakh carton boxes this year. The big drop has been in December when sale of beer dropped by 4.14 lakh carton boxes. Incidentally, another round of beer price revision that had been proposed earlier, has been kept on hold.

CM seeks support of officers to make State economic powerhouse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday sought the cooperation of IAS, IPS, IRS, and IFS officers for effective implementation of the government programmes to eliminate regional imbalances and to make Karnataka the economic powerhouse of the country.

The Chief Minister extended New Year greetings to senior officers and told them to discharge their duties with responsibilities in the administration. "The officials should perform their duties proactively for the welfare of society," he said.

Noting the works of B.R. Ambedkar while drafting and later implementing the Constitution, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that socio-economic freedom should be provided to all sections of society. Otherwise, political freedom has no meaning, he said.

When the late Manmohan Singh took office as the Finance Minister in the 1990s, India's economy was in shambles, and he gave new impetus to the economy by introducing liberal economic reforms. As the Prime Minister for a decade, Singh made right

Socio-economic freedom should be provided to all sections of society. Otherwise, political freedom has no meaning, says CM

to information, right to food, and right to education mandatory for inclusive growth of society, he said.

The government has been implementing five guarantees to ensure equality and equal opportunities to the poor. It had spent ₹35,000 crore for the development of the Kalyana Karnataka region. A committee led by economist M. Govinda Rao has been formed to study whether the regional inequality mentioned in the D.M. Nanjundappa committee report has reduced and submit a report, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Noting that the Opposition has been repeatedly spreading lies that there was no money in the government for development, he said the previous government had caused damage by inviting tenders hastily without getting Budget approval. The previous government had left bills of ₹39,000 crore pending, he said.

C.T. Ravi case: Basavaraj Horatti says no further action unless Hebbalkar files fresh complaint

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Wednesday said that unless he receives a fresh complaint from Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar supported by audio-video evidence regarding what transpired in the Legislative Council on December 19, he would not be able to take any further step.

Speaking to presspersons in Hubballi, Mr. Horatti said that he received the complaint by Ms. Hebbalkar on December 19, 2024, regarding MLC C.T. Ravi using derogatory terms against her when the House was adjourned for few minutes. Subsequently, Mr. Ravi had filed a complaint accusing the Minister of launching a disinformation campaign against him.

The chairman said that after the subsequent developments, including Mr. Ravi's arrest and release on bail, he had received a complaint on December 24 regarding the alleged misbehaviour and threat issued to him in the Council hall by Congress leaders. "Mr. Ravi had filed a seven-page complaint before me alleging breach of Council

Basavaraj Horatti

member's privilege by the police on December 27, which has now been referred to the Privileges Committee of the Council," he said.

Mr. Horatti said that in the subsequent days, Ms. Hebbalkar released a video clip of the purported incident and said she would file another complaint with evidence. "However till date, my office has not received any new complaint from her. If she files a complaint, then I will inquire into it and if video or audio clips are submitted as evidence, then they will be sent to Forensic Sciences Laboratory. Based on the lab results, I will take further action as per the Council regulations in consultation with secretaries and experts," he said.

Regarding the requests for mahazar (panchanama) first by the Police Commissioner and then by CID officials, Mr. Horatti said that he had sought details on what type of panchanama they would like to conduct for which no reply had been received so far. "Once they give us details of the panchanama they want to conduct, I will take a decision on whether to allow it or not. And there is no mandatory rule to allow panchanama," he said.

Expresses anguish

The Chairman said that in the 113-year history of the Legislative Council, such an incident had never happened. "As a custodian of the House, of which I have been a member for 45 years, I am deeply pained by the incident. It should not have happened," he said.

On whether he would call both the leaders for talks, he said as he had ruled on the issue, it was not in his authority to call them again. However, if the Minister files a fresh complaint, then he might consider it

To a query on whether there was political pressure on him, he said that none had tried to pressure him and he would not yield even if anyone tried.

CM rules out resignation of Priyank

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said there is no evidence of involvement of RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge in the death of 26-year-old contractor Raju Kapanur by suicide, and ruled out his resignation from the Cabinet.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there was no mention of Mr. Priyank's name in the death note of Raju Kapanur. "Neither there is evidence nor the role of Mr. Priyank in the case. Mr. Priyank said he was ready to face CID probe," Mr. Siddaramaiah said. To a question on the resignation of former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa following the alleged suicide of contractor Santhosh Patil, he said the contractor had named Mr. Eshwarappa in the death note.

He said a decision on expansion of the State Cabinet would be taken after consultation with the party high command.

Women & Child Development Department
Government of Odisha
Lokseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar-751001
Telephone Number - 0674-2392976
Website- https://wcd.odisha.gov.in ; Email ID- subhadrajojana1@gmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

CORRIGENDUM cum Response to Pre-Bid Queries to RFP Ref. no: 03/SUBH/WCD Dated: 19/12/2024.

RFP title: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SELECTION OF BIDDER FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMAND AND RESPONSE CENTRE UNDER DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT, ODISHA.

In partial modification to the RFP Ref. no: 03/SUBH/WCD issued on 19/12/2024, this corrigendum is being issued to all prospective bidders. Details of the corrigendum is available in the Department Website **https://wcd.odisha.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Additional Secretary to Govt., Department of W&CD

g-:

OIPR-33001/11/0046/2425

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayath Bidar
O/O THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (KVI), DEPT. OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE, ZILLA PANCHAYAT, Naubad, Bidar. 585402

No.ZPB/DDKVI/A1/CORRIGENDUMTENDER/2024-25 Date: 31-12-2024

:: CORRIGENDUM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through e-procurement portal only)

Deputy Director (kvi), Dept. of Industries & Commerce, Zilla Panchayat, Bidar in association with e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka invited tender from the reputed manufacturers/ Suppliers for supply of Sewing Machines, Barber & Cobbler tool kits item wise under two cover system for Rs 77.16 lakhs. Corrigendum to this tender is made, Corrigendum made to this tender is available on e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and the Last date for submission of tenders through On-line was Dated: 09-01-2025 is now Extended to Date: 11-01-2025 up to 5:00pm.

For any Assistance or information on the Corrigendum can contact on Mobile Number: 9980026489.

Sd/- Deputy Director (kvi), Zilla Panchayat, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/321/KSMC&A/2024-25

Case against BJP leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Grounds police have registered a case against BJP leaders for allegedly disfiguring public places and creating a nuisance during a protest against Minister Priyank Kharge demanding his resignation, at Mourya Circle on Tuesday.

Based on a complaint, the police charged leaders Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, C.T. Ravi, among 12 others under the Karnataka Open Place Disfigurement Act. They also detained those who staged a protest at Mourya Circle.

Vijayendra meets Amit Shah in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP State unit president B. Y. Vijayendra met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Wednesday.

Announcing this through a social media post, Mr. Vijayendra said he met Mr. Shah to seek his blessings on New Year day.

Mr. Vijayendra said he had briefed Mr. Shah about the programmes being taken up by the party State unit to strengthen the organisation in the coming days and the problems that had arisen in the State due to the alleged maladministration of the Congress regime besides the allegations against some of the Ministers. "He guided me on how to go about with respect to these issues," the BJP State chief said.

Mr. Vijayendra said his meeting with Mr. Shah had increased his confidence and provided him enthusiasm.

Interestingly, Mr. Vijayendra's meeting with Mr. Shah comes at a time when his opponents in the party are trying to put him down by saying that the organisation was yet to gain strength under his leadership.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/BGKT/TZ/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2024-25//19099-19108 Date: 31.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites Tender for procurement of following materials required for Transmission Zone KPTCL Bagalkote.

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/2024-25/IND0105/CALL-2 for **Tender for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply of 110V Battery chargers for various substations in Transmission Zone KPTCL, Bagalkote conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.** Quantity Tendered: **110V 100AH Battery chargers - 29 Nos.**

The tender will be received through **"Kpp Portal"** only. The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the kpp portal process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after Date: 02.01.2025, 4.00 pm onwards** and last date for receipt of tender is **Date: 17.01.2025 upto 5.30 pm.** Further details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer (Electy), Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Zonal Office Complex, Opp: Sector No.45, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587 103.

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Under Taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, MBC O&M Division
Chigarahalli, Tq. Jewargi, Dist. Kalaburagi-585310.

NO. KBJNL/MBC/D/PB-1/2024-25/726 Date:30.12.2024

:: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

(Through E-Procurement portal only)

Reference : 1) Tender Notification, No- 725 Date:26.12.2024.
2) Tender Notification, No- 711 Date:18.12.2024.

On behalf of Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, MBC O&M Division, Chigarahalli Tq. Jewargi, invites short term percentage/turn key tender for the Total two (2) works stated below as per KTPP act. The tenders are required to submit in Two Cover. One work Under KKRDB fund (Indent No.1311/call-2). And another work of MLI's-II Head work maintenance (Indent No.1376). Having amount put to tender **Rs. 99.13 lakhs** & **Rs. 46.16 lakhs** respectively and EMD of Rs. 1.76 lakhs & Rs. 1.10 lakhs.

Calendar of events: 1) Request for e-tender documents: **From 31-12-2024 to 07-01-2025 upto 5.30 pm**, 2) Submission of completed e-tender documents : **On 07-01-2025 upto 5.30 pm,** 3) Opening of Technical bid : **09-01-2025 at 11.00 am**

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http;// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Any clarification may please be taken from the undersigned one during the office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL MBC O&M Division, Chiagarahalli.585310.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/789/KSMC&A/2024-25

Drinking water contamination: A recurring nightmare in Bengaluru

As lakhs of Bengalureans cry out for an enduring solution that ensures the supply of clean and safe drinking water, huge structural and systemic gaps have remained unaddressed

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Three hundred residents of the city's BTM Layout faced serious health risks in November, in the latest episode of sewage inflow into Cauvery water lines. Two months earlier, the entire HBR Layout was perched dangerously close to a similar health disaster. No lessons were learnt from April of the same year, when water contamination had triggered a big, 40% spike in cholera cases across the city.

Is there no end to this recurring nightmare? As lakhs of Bengalureans cry out for an enduring solution that ensures supply of clean, safe drinking water, huge structural and systemic gaps remain unaddressed. Chaotic underground pipeline networks exasperated by a lack of coordination by multiple civic agencies, big gaps in ferrying sewage and treatment, absence of a prompt contamination alert system have all left the citizens precariously exposed.

In most cases, the contamination is detected only after the foul stench hits the residents. But by then, the damage would be done. In BTM Layout 2nd Stage, many residents had their entire sumps filled with 3,500 to 4,000 litres of Cauvery water turn black. Often, the citizens end up spending an enormous amount of money to entirely flush out the polluted water, clean the interior pipeline system and refill with tanker water.

Questions linger about the quality of water supplied at Pure Water kiosks and third-party players such as this. Whether the RO systems are regularly maintained and the water quality checked is also open to question. RASHEED KAPPAN

The presence of the diarrhoeagenic bacteria called Escherichia Coli (E. coli) is a clear indication of faecal contamination in drinking water samples. RASHEED KAPPAN

No periodic checks

The United Nations General Assembly has declared safe drinking water as a human right. Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) is one of the UN's Sustainable Goal. Yet, the country's wannabe global city has been found wanting year after year in periodical water quality assessment and surveillance, critical to guide action on safe drinking water. The presence of the diarrhoeagenic bacteria called Escherichia Coli (E. coli) is a clear indication of faecal contamination in drinking water samples. Counts of coliforms are an indicator of microbial contamination. But how frequently is the supplied drinking water tested for these critical parameters?

"Microbial studies are rarely done on water, since they are convinced that UV and chlorine will take care of all those pollutants," says Ramprasad V., Co-founder, Friends of Lakes.

Recurring contamination can only be addressed through a scientific water safety plan, says independent water and wastewater consultant Thippeswamy M.N. "Contamination can happen anywhere from catchment to consumer. Though treatment happens at the headworks, pollutants can enter at the pumping stations, reservoirs and the 10,000 km plus pipeline network that carries water to the consumer," he points out.

Water, sewer lines

In many slums within the core city areas, storm water drains (SWDs), Cauvery and sewer lines are laid too close since the lanes are narrow. This increases the risk of contamination. Thippeswamy elaborates: "The drains - small, medium and large - all carry sewage. Sewage lines too are in poor condition, leading to leakage into the SWDs. Besides, many households have their latrines connected directly to the SWDs."

Regular monitoring is mandated in areas where water and sewer lines are in close proximity. A minimum separation of 10 ft is required but not followed due to narrow road width. FILE PHOTO

Regular monitoring is mandated in areas where water and sewer lines are in close proximity. A minimum separation of 10ft is required but not followed due to narrow road width. Sewer lines get blocked and enter water lines in many places. Seasoned water experts say this is very common in slum areas, and the cascading effect could quickly engulf the surrounding localities.

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), being the first response agency, should test at least 1,000 samples every month, says Thippeswamy. "As per WHO standards, one sample per 10,000 people has to be tested for multiple physical and bacteriological parameters. The BBMP is supposed to monitor it while involving third parties for surveillance. They are not doing much. The city has grown so much. They have to take cognizance of not only quantity but also quality."

Besides, six percent of households with a Cauvery water supply are inappropriately using RO technology as they can consume UV-treated Cauvery water. RASHEED KAPPAN

Contamination risks

While microbial contamination gets the spotlight after coloration and stench, chemical pollutants often escape the radar. Chemically contaminated groundwater is usually purified by Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology. "However, this technology wastes water as only a portion of raw water is treated and the remaining is discarded as RO reject with almost twice the salinity of the raw water," finds a June 2024 study titled "Examining Bengaluru's Potable Water Quality and the Usage and Consequences of RO Technology in Treating the City's Drinking Water."

The study authors Sudhakar M. Rao and Nitish Venkateswarlu Mogili note that potable water supplied in all BBMP zones is contaminated by Fe (iron) and nitrate. "Calculations projected that 49% of 29.1 lakh households consume 14.29 MLD (million liters per day) of RO water. Groundwater in some BBMP zones has TDS (total dissolved solids), F (fluoride) and Pb (lead) contamination." Besides, six percent of households with a Cauvery water supply are inappropriately using RO technology as they can consume UV-treated Cauvery water. "Usage of 14.29 MLD of RO water will generate 14.29-33.3 MLD of RO reject water with elevated salinity levels that eventually reach the inland water bodies," says the study report.

Water kiosks

To address public concerns about water safety, the government opened scores of 'Pure Drinking Water' kiosks, offering 20 litres at ₹5. But Ramprasad wonders how safe the water really is. "Maintenance is an issue. Many of them don't have their UV systems working. There are chances that the water will have pollutants. People stand in queue believing that it is very good water. All these are ROs, they need maintenance," he says.

However, water conservationist S. Vishwanath is certain that if the systems were properly checked at the initial implementation stage, the process itself would determine the purity of water. He elaborates, "If the process is followed, you will get good, clean water without E-Coli or coliforms. However, there is potential for contamination when people take the water in containers that are not clean. Secondary contamination could be an issue, and the public need to be aware of this."

Lack of 24/7 water supply in most parts of the city implies wide recourse to storage tanks and sumps. This can be a source of secondary contamination in households. While pressurized water supply negates the need for storage and pipes under vacuum, intermittent supply lets pollutants in through leaks and conflict points between water and sewage lines.

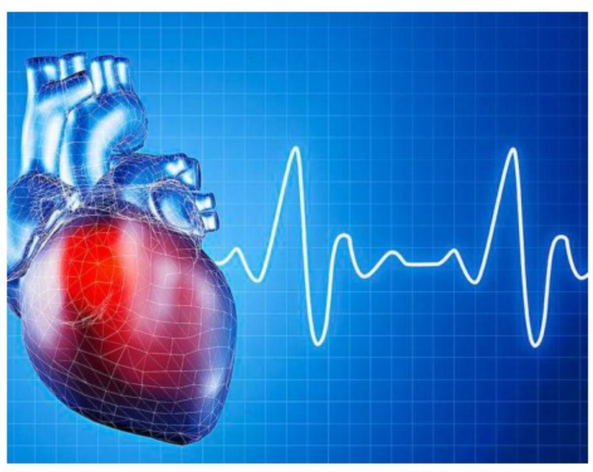
'Reduce sewer joints'

As Thippeswamy points out, one way to reduce leakages is to reduce sewer joints. "Older sewer pipes were 2.5ft in length, thus requiring more joints. This is now being addressed with pipes that are even 10ft long. Joints are vulnerable to the leakages."

To find an enduring solution to the problem, Vishwanath suggests a thorough audit of every contamination spot to pinpoint the cause. Testing could be democratised by equipping apartments and even individual houses with devices now available at highly affordable rates. These could easily ascertain the extent of Total Dissolved Solids, residual chlorine and other pollutants.

Apartments are advised to send samples every month to accredited labs, ensure that they are thoroughly checked for BIS 10500 drinking water standards and the values put up in public domain. "They should do this both for the water supply system and treated waste water emerging out of their STPs to ascertain the level of treatment. This should be a monthly ritual," says Vishwanath.

Rotary helps with heart surgeries of Ethiopian children


The children who were treated in last two years have shown recovery. GETTY IMAGES

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rotary Bangalore Midtown (RBM), in association with Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, has extended its support to help children suffering from congenital heart diseases from Ethiopia.

RBM, in a release, said that 15 children who have been treated in the last two years with the support of the two institutions have shown recovery and are likely to lead normal lives. Four more needy children with heart conditions from Ethiopia were treated at the Jayadeva Hospital, and they are being sent back after a successful operation, added the release.

Palani Loganathan, president of Rotary Bangalore Midtown, said, "We are happy and privileged to be a part of this life-changing initiative for children and their families."

Yogendra Yadav to participate in two events in Bengaluru

The first lecture programme will be held at the Institution of Agricultural Technologists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

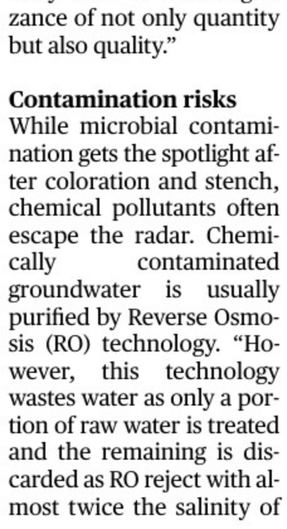
Visthar, a secular Civil Society Organisation (CSO) is hosting the Kappen Centenary Public Lecture on "Re-Enchanting Democracy, Reclaiming the Republic" on Saturday, January 4.

Indian democracy

Prof. Yogendra Yadav, a renowned political analyst, and founding member of Swaraj Abhiyan, Jai Kisan Andolan and the National president of Swaraj India, will deliver the lecture. He will share his insights on the challenges facing Indian democracy and "the need to move beyond dominant narratives and reclaim the republic."

Prof. Babu Mathew, former Registrar and faculty at National Law School of India University, will present a response to the lecture, bringing his perspectives from academia and activism. The event will be moderated by Kirtana Kumar, actor, director, filmmaker, and author of *Bangalore Blues*. She is also the Trustee of the Women Artists Group.

Yogendra Yadav


Manmohan Singh. PTI

The lecture programme will be held at the Institution of Agricultural Technologists, No. 15, Queens Road, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

In another event in the city, Jagrutha Karnataka is hosting a public programme on "Legacy of Dr. Manmohan Singh: The present and future of India" on January 3, which will also feature Prof. Yadav and L.K. Ateeq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

On Manmohan Singh

"Dr. Manmohan Singh is a unique leader who has shaped India's destiny in a crucial historical juncture (1991-2014). He is praised and criticised equally for what he has done and what he has not, for his words as much as for his silence."

"While we deeply mourn his passing, we also recognize this as a moment to thoughtfully reflect on and critically examine the impact of his policies," said the organisers of the event in a release. Following the lectures, there will be a discussion on the implications of Dr Singh's policies for the present and the future of India.

The event is being held at Gandhi Bhavan, near Chitrakala Parishat, from 4.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on January 3.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 2, 1975

Inadequate Library Facilities

Bengaluru: The Bangalore University Authorities are facing the problem of providing adequate library facilities for the students of the Post Graduate Departments which have been shifted from the Central College to Jnana Bharathi, the new campus of the University.

The University authorities have started many new degree, diploma and evening postgraduate courses and increased the intake of students into the various departments, without expanding library facilities.

The new Library building built at a cost of Rs. 21 lakhs at Jnana Bharathi which has just been completed, will be opened on January 4 by the Union Minister for Health and Family Planning, Mr. Karan Singh. The University authorities have placed orders for furniture worth Rs. four lakhs for the library.

Procurement Drive in Raichur District

Raichur: The campaign for paddy procurement for the season has begun in right earnest in Raichur district, one of the leading paddy growing centres of Karnataka. More than one third of the targeted quantum has been procured within three weeks of the commencement of the drive in December.

Raichur district with the advent of the Tungabhadra Project has emerged as one of the paddy granaries in the Strate.

CITYBEATS

Revisiting a satire

JANUARY 5
Step into the satirical world of director MS Sathyu's *Chitegu Chinte* (1978). Follow the journey of movie star-turned-politician Gajasimha as he navigates gangster traps, foreign agents and political intrigue in this allegorical satire. The film, presented by B•Cinematic, will be screened in Kannada with English subtitles.
From 11am to 1.30pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry is free. RSVP required.

Spectacular sights

JANUARY 1 TO 15
Step into a world where nostalgia meets modern marvels. Jumbo Circus invites you to relive the magic of classic entertainment, reimagined with a contemporary twist. Experience breathtaking performances, dazzling displays, and unforgettable thrills that promise memories to cherish.
At Duravani Nagar, Krishnarajapuram. Tickets, ₹350 onwards, on BookMyShow.

Laugh out loud

JANUARY 4
Join Fatima Ayesha, winner of *Sterling Reserve Comedy Project Season 2*, for her hilarious solo show. She will be ready to entertain with jokes on engineers, startups, travel, and more. A point to be noted is that some content may be repeated if you've seen her live after September 2023.
From 8pm onwards at The Underground Comedy Club, Koramangala. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Telling Machli's story

Filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu on his award-winning wildlife documentary *The World's Most Famous Tiger*

Praveen Sudevan

Few filmmakers might have ever forged a bond with their subject as profoundly as Subbiah Nallamuthu did with Machli, the legendary tigress of Ranthambore.

In his award-winning wildlife documentary *The World's Most Famous Tiger* (2017), screened on December 12 as a part of IIHS Screens at the Indian Institute of Human Settlements in Sadashivnagar, Bengaluru, he chronicles Machli's life from her prime to her poignant final days, telling a story that has resonated with audiences all over the world.

Wildlife filmmaking often sparks a debate: Should stories centre on individual animals, or should they emphasise broader ecological narratives? For Subbiah, the answer is clear.

"Most channels or platforms want personal storytelling," he explains, "Honestly speaking, that is what works. Take *My Octopus Teacher*, for example. It's about one man's bond with an octopus, and it won an Oscar. Personal stories resonate."

While scientists and environmentalists have criticised this approach, Subbiah believes it is a powerful way to connect people with nature.

"Scientists prefer numbers over names for tigers, but for filmmakers like us, who rarely get commissioned or funded, storytelling is paramount," he says. "Audiences connect emotionally when they can follow one character's journey."

Machli's final chapter

Following Machli for nearly a decade presented its own set of challenges. "The story hinged on capturing her final moments," he recalls.

"Wild tigers usually vanish into the forest to die, but Machli's death occurred in an accessible area. That gave me the rare opportunity to document her end."

Subbiah's persistence paid off. His film not only showcased Machli's conflicts with her offspring and her decline in old age but also documented her unique relationships with other tigers.

"The male tiger who fathered three generations – his death was a pivotal moment. Such emotional sequences were new to audiences and even some scientists," he notes.

The filming process was anything but predictable. "You spend years gathering footage, waiting for significant events," he says.

"It's nerve-wracking. If I hadn't captured Machli's death, I would have lost six years of documentation because that's the most crucial thing in the film. That was the risk."

Balancing storytelling and science

In wildlife filmmaking, finding the balance between emotional storytelling and scientific accuracy is crucial. For Subbiah, the former takes precedence.

"About 80-90% of my films focus on emotional storytelling– the characters, their bonds, and relationships," he says. "If I include scientific details, it's usually through voiceovers, and only when it enhances the narrative."

He offers an example: "If a book says tigers mate only in winter, but I film them mating in summer, I highlight the behavioural change and its context. My audience is general, not academic. The aim is to create a story that's accessible and engaging."

In India, wildlife filmmakers face many hurdles, from restrictive shooting zones to a lack of funding. Subbiah's films are largely self-funded. "You have to make every shot count," he says. "While filming Machli, I also gathered footage of her offspring, which later became a separate film, *Clash of Tigers*."

Sticking to one story can be difficult, especially when other fascinating narratives unfold nearby. Yet Subbiah remained steadfast. "People would urge me to cover other events, but I couldn't risk missing something important with Machli," he says. "When you're focused on one character, you're committed."

Behind the lens Making of *The World's Most Famous Tiger*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Emotional connection

Subbiah's attachment to his characters runs deep. Filming Machli's final moments was particularly emotional. "I was alone with her," he shares. "It reminded me of my grandfather's death. I wanted to celebrate her life, to honour her story."

This dedication has not gone unnoticed. "After a screening in London, the audience sat in silence for five minutes," he recalls. "A woman, in tears, told me, 'I don't know if tigers will survive, but filmmakers like you must live long to make films like this.'"

Children's feedback has also been profound. A child in Rajasthan asked, "Dinosaurs are extinct. What will happen if tigers disappear?" The question prompted Subbiah to document the translocation of tigers to Sariska, highlighting the cascading effects of their absence.

As wildlife filmmaking evolves, Subbiah sees a shift toward fictional storytelling. "Documentaries are rarely commissioned by OTT platforms anymore," he laments.

"I'm considering feature films – fictional stories rooted in real footage and incidents. It's a gamble, but I believe it's the next step."

"Anyone can take a photograph or edit a video, but telling a compelling story is a skill," he says. "My goal is to create films that resonate, inspire and make people care about the natural world."

> My goal is to create films that resonate, inspire, and, ultimately, make people care about the natural world.
>
> **SUBBIAH NALLAMUTHU**
> Documentary filmmaker

Heeding the siren call

Olive Group's latest venture in Bengaluru is a chic and intimate concept bar where each cocktail has a story to tell

Anagha Maareesha

Give me a menu with a story on it, especially one with a dose of history and culture, and I am happy. I love bars where the cocktails have been thought through and are well crafted. Siren, the new Chinese cocktail bar in Bengaluru is just that. Located centrally on Lavelle Road, the bar

EATING OUT

brings together ancient traditions from the Asian country, with modern mixology techniques. Decidedly Chinese, the concept bar is the latest venture by the Olive Group.

The interiors are dimly lit, chic and distinctly Chinese in its aesthetic. Siren used to be Cantan, Olive's Chinese restaurant. That has now shifted a floor below. Red dragons and paper lanterns dot the walls. We take a seat in one of the booths and peruse the menu. The cocktail menu is elaborate, while the food menu, featuring mainly bar nibbles, is a one-pager.

Waiter, there is duck in my cocktail

Let us decode the cocktail menu. The drinks take inspiration from Chinese festivals and celebrations and use innovative ingredients. Peking duck is made with duck fat washed whisky, plum juice, Falernum liqueur and Hoisin sauce. The drink is both sweet and savoury, and does not have a pronounced duck-fatty flavour, in case you are squeamish. Whisper in the sky is named after the Lantern Festival, and is made with Bourbon, black sesame, rice milk and brown butter. It is creamy and nutty.

Moon cake is based on the mid-autumn festival where the Chinese eat traditional mooncakes. The drink at Siren incorporates sweet and smoky notes with date rum, Lapsang rosso vermouth and Campari. In Chinese culture, Tomb Sweeping Day is when one pays respect to their ancestors and the cocktail Remember Jie is made from the flowers associated with this festival.

The drink I enjoy the most is a savoury concoction called Five o five. In the Dragon Boat Festival, bamboo-filled rice packets are thrown into rivers to honour Qu Yuan, a noted poet from 300 BCE. The drink has bamboo vodka and shiitake miso gin, along with soy sauce, cherry tomato, mezcal and honey.

Siren also has a stocked bar and classic cocktails such as martinis and old fashioneds.

Hits: Five o Five cocktail
Misses: Fried rice
Cost for two: ₹2,500

Swank and swish Interiors and offerings at Siren. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bar bites

The food menu has Chinese appetisers. I go for the cheung fun, rice noodle rolls. The noodles have a great texture, however the filling is the usual assortment of carrot, corn and cabbage. The grilled pork belly is glazed with a sweet and sticky sauce and is well made. The spring rolls are stuffed with shiitake mushrooms and deep fried. The homemade spicy sauce that it comes with is a winner. The cream cheese and truffle oil dimsum is a must-try.

For mains, they only offer two options, Hakka noodles and fried rice. Both are run of the mill, though they are traditional comfort food after a night of knocking back cocktails. The focus here is on the drinks rather than the food.

Try the unique cocktails, skip the mains.

Siren is at Lavelle Road, Bengaluru. For details, call 7718874933

Remembering a reformer

The solo play *Vhay, I Am Savitribai Phule!* narrates the remarkable story of Savitribai Phule, India's first woman teacher and a pioneering social reformer.

Originally written and directed by acclaimed playwright Sushama Deshpande, the production debuted in Marathi on January 3, 1989. Since then, it has transcended linguistic and cultural barriers, being translated into nine languages, including Hindi and, most recently, English. The current English adaptation, performed by Nandita Patkar, aims to connect with India's youth, ensuring Savitribai's legacy remains vibrant and relevant.

The play recounts Savitribai's inspiring journey from illiteracy to becoming a trailblazing educator and social reformer in 19th-Century colonial India. Alongside her husband, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, she tackled gender inequality and caste oppression through initiatives like orphanages, widow support, and the Barber's Strike against caste discrimination.

The minimalist staging – featuring simple props, lighting, and music – keeps the spotlight on the powerful narrative. Initially conceived as a solo act, the play briefly experimented with a duo format before returning to its original structure for the English version. True to its ethos, the script has been freely available to performers since its inception, a gesture reflecting Deshpande's belief that Savitribai's story belongs to all.

With its enduring message of education, emancipation, and equality, *Vhay, I Am Savitribai Phule!* is a tribute to one of India's most iconic reformers, offering a vital call to action for today's generation, according to the makers.

At the Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on January 3. The event runs from 7pm to 9pm with free entry on a first-come, first-served basis upon RSVP.

HC issues notice to Karnataka on quota for women in AAB council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, (AAB) and the State government on a petition filed by a young lawyer seeking 33% reservation for women lawyers in various posts of the governing council and the executive committee of AAB and to implement such reservation from the ensuing elections to the association.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order on a petition filed by advocate Deeksha N. Amruthesh, a member of AAB.

The petitioner has sought a direction for the reservation based on the directions issued by the apex court for reserving various posts for women advocates in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in May 2024, and a similar direction issued in December 2024 to provide such a reservation for woman lawyers in the Delhi High Court Bar Association (DHCBA).

Also, the apex court had made it clear that these reservation is only to guarantee a minimum woman members in SCBA and woman advocates are eligible to contest for all posts of SCAB irrespective of these reservations, the petitioner said. In case of SCBA, the apex court had ordered for reservation of minimum of 1/3rd seats each in the executive committee (that is 3 out of 9) and in senior executive members (2 out of 6 posts).

Besides, the apex court said that at least one post of the office-bearer should be reserved for women candidate exclusively by turn and on rotation basis while reserving the post of treasurer in the executive committee for woman, the petitioner pointed out.

With regard to DHCBA, the petitioner said the apex court had ordered reservation of three posts for women lawyers while also ordering reservation of the post of treasurer and 30% of the post of members in the executive committee in Delhi's district Bar association.

"It is pertinent to note that AAB's governing body has historically been dominated by male advocates, with minimal representation of women. In 2021-24, only two women were elected against 29 governing council members. This lack of diversity undermines the principles of equality and inclusivity that the legal profession seeks to uphold.

"The failure to implement gender-based reservations perpetuates systemic inequities and denies women advocates the opportunity to contribute to the association's leadership and decision-making processes," it was contended in the petition.

T.M. Krishna receives 'Sangita Kalanidhi'

The musician has attracted younger audiences into the Carnatic music fold, says Music Academy President N. Murali; Parassala Ravi and Geetha Raja conferred the title of 'Sangita Kalaacharya'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

T.M. Krishna receives the Sangita Kalanidhi title from David Shulman, Chair, Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies. N.Murali, President, Music Academy, is seen.S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Renowned Carnatic musician T.M. Krishna was conferred the title of 'Sangita Kalanidhi 2024' by Professor David Shulman, Chair, Renee Lang Professor of Humanistic Studies, and former professor of Indian Studies and Comparative Religion, Hebrew University, Jerusalem at the 98th Conference and Concerts – Sadas, the traditional oriental convocation – of The Music Academy in Chennai on Wednesday.

Parassala Ravi and Geetha Raja were conferred the title of 'Sangita Kalaacharya' and Dr. Margaret Bastin was the recipient of 'Musicologist Award 2024'. Thiruvaiyyaru Brothers S. Narasimhan and S. Venkatesan, and violinist H.K. Narasimhamurthy received the TTK Award.

Speaking at the event, N. Murali, President, The Music Academy, and Director, The Hindu Group Publishing Private Limited, said Mr. Krishna's concert on Christmas Day was of "very high quality" and the response from the audience "was truly overwhelming. The rapturous applause and standing ovation that the artist received were incredible".

"All in all, the *rasikas*, young and old, were in such high spirits and bursting with such energy and enthusiasm that the whole atmosphere was surreal in a sense. I would dare say that, if at all there is a musician who could attract into the fold of Carnatic music those outside it, particularly younger audiences, it is Shri T.M. Krishna," he said. "The Carnatic music ecosystem needs such an induction sorely as there are structural changes already happening, which, institutions involved in classical performing arts, need to take serious note of."

Mr. Murali said Mr. Krishna "distinguished himself in the role as the President of the 98th Annual Conference and Concerts".

"His brilliance absolutely shone through the entire season. The academic sessions have been specially curated for the first time in over 49 years with an overarching theme 'Aesthetics and Synaesthetics: Reflections on Raga in Indian Art'," he said.

'Non-stop action'

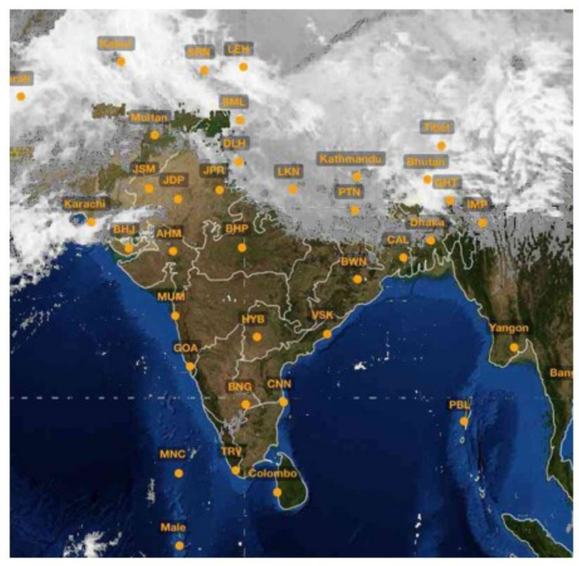
Upon receiving the title, Mr. Krishna, who thanked the people of Uroor Olcott Kuppam, along with his friends and family, said his life changed after he was invited to organise a music festival in 2015 in Uroor Olcott Kuppam in Chennai. "My life over the past decade or so has had many rounds of disturbances. Many have lasted about a month or so, but 2024 was different. It was about eight months of non-stop action, if you can call it that. I know I'm tough, but sometimes, it is hard and it can get very lonely," he said.

Mr. Krishna recalled his experiences of performing at The Music Academy on December 25. "It was not just about the number of people who gathered here. For me, it was not about that. It was not about the applause. It was not about the standing ovation. It was not about the screams or the howls and happiness. No, I think what made it unprecedented for me was that everybody here on that day was here for a very personal reason. And I left that morning with a lot of hope and a lot of joy, but above all, truth," he said.

Professor David Shulman said Carnatic music possesses the power to change self and change something in reality as well. "One of the features of Carnatic music is that you're just capable of changing your life and also changing something in reality. Let me say that part of the reason for this, the magic of that kind of transformation, part of it, of course, has to do with the tremendous interpenetration and interdependence and more than symbiosis of the text, the verbal text, and the musical, melodic and rhythmic text. It's one of the strongest features of this entire tradition, because Carnatic music, we all know it's a music of compositions... as a compositional framework, and even if the composition exceeds itself in the course of performance, and wedding together of words and sounds, that's a magical combination," he pointed out.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: AQICN, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Dense fog likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Cold day/severe cold day conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	19.0	15.1	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	28.5	15.4	Kurnool	—	33.4	20.1
Aizawl	—	24.2	11.2	Lucknow	—	16.2	9.1
Allahabad	—	17.2	11.0	Madurai	—	31.2	21.5
Bengaluru	—	27.5	16.5	Mangaluru	—	33.9	23.6
Bhopal	—	18.3	8.4	Mumbai	—	34.4	20.5
Bhubaneswar	—	26.6	16.4	Mysuru	—	29.5	17.1
Chandigarh	—	11.3	8.7	New Delhi	—	15.0	7.4
Chennai	—	30.8	23.4	Patna	—	15.0	11.2
Coimbatore	—	31.2	19.2	Port Blair	37	30.5	23.6
Dehradun	—	20.8	9.2	Puducherry	—	29.6	23.0
Gangtok	—	15.4	7.5	Pune	—	30.0	16.8
Goa	—	35.0	23.0	Raipur	—	28.0	14.1
Guwahati	—	25.2	12.4	Ranchi	—	21.4	8.6
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	16.8	6.0
Hyderabad	—	29.6	17.6	Shimla	—	16.2	7.6
Imphal	—	24.1	7.1	Srinagar	—	2.4	-4.4
Jaipur	—	19.4	5.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.3	24.6
Kochi	—	32.8	24.6	Tiruchi	—	30.1	22.0
Kohima	—	17.0	6.6	Vijayawada	—	30.0	21.8
Kolkata	—	24.0	14.4	Visakhapatnam	—	28.4	21.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.. —	.. —	. —	..... —	..... —	..... —
Bengaluru	.. —	.. —	. —	..... —	..... —	..... —
Chennai	.. —	.. —	. —	... 165	..... —	.....
Delhi	.10	..25	19	... 318	...273	.....
Hyderabad	.. —	.. —	. —	... 157	..... —	.....
Kolkata	.. —	.. —	. —	... 185	..... —	.....
Lucknow	.. —	.. —	. —	..... —	..... —	..... —
Mumbai	.. —	.. —	. —	... 155	..... —	.....
Pune	.. —	.. —	. —	..... —	..... —	..... —
Visakhapatnam	.. —	.. —	. —	..... —	..... —	..... —

Air Quality Code: Poor · Moderate · Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

CHANGE OF NAME

I SUNDARA S.H., aged 68 yrs, W/o.K.Ramesh, R / of No.5090/2021, R/at No. S-88, 4th Block, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru - 560079, have changed my name to **SUMA RAMESH,** vide affidavit dated:18.11.2021 **PRL, CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE** Bengaluru.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRMALA Goutham Chand, W/o Goutham Chand Sohan Lal, R/at No.19, Masjid Street, Yelagundapalya, Austin Town, Bangalore - 560047, have changed my name from Nirmala Goutham Chand to Nirmala vide affidavit dated 16/12/2024 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, LALITHA Kumari, aged about 80 yrs, Spouse of 266653 Rank: Ex-Sergeant Name: Ramachandran P V, R/a No.8, 8th Cross, 5th Main, Krishnappa Block, Ganganagar Extension, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560032 hereby state that all the names Lalitha Kumari, Lalitha Thazhathidath and Mrs.Lalitha Chander and Lalitha Ramachandran belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only, Henceforth I will be called as Lalitha Ramachandran and My DOB is 14.11.1954 vide affidavit dt: 10.12.2024 sworn before XXIX Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, B'luru city.

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14.
Ph: 0487- 2459807, 2459842

E- TENDER NOTICE

P2/176/2024-25 02.01.2025
E-tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of the following machines. **(1) Automated Pan with Stirrer (7 nos.) (2) Laser Marking Machine (2 nos.).** Last Date **21.01.2025.** You can download tender documents from **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. For more details visit **www.oushadhi.org** or contact Purchase Department. Sd/-
Managing Director

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BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027. Telephone No: 080-22537575
Website : **www.mybmtc.com** e-mail : **ctmc@mybmtc.com**
No. BMTC: CO: TR: COM: 3946 :2024-25 Dated:31.12.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:27/2024-25
(e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons/Agency/company on monthly license fee basis for **DIGITAL BUS INFORMATION DISPLAY (DBID)** in the bus stands through e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**06.01.2025 at 11:00 hrs**	**Place:** Mini meeting Hall 4th Floor, Central Offices, BMTC, Shanthinagar.
Last date & time for submission of bids is on	**15.01.2025 up to 17:00 hrs**	
Opening of Technical bids is on	**17.01.2025 at 11:30 hrs**	
Opening of Financial bids is on	**To be Intimated later**	

For further details on license fees, EMD & other conditions log on to: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Contact no: 080-46010000 or 7760991222 & 7760997519 E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**

No.BMTC: CO: TR: COM:1630: 3947 :2024-25 Dated: 01.01.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 28/2024-25
(e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites offers/bids from the interested Persons/Agency for **Operations & Maintenance of Toilet Complex of Kempegowda Bus Station through e-procurement platform.**

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**06.01.2025 at 12:30 hrs**	**Place:** 4th floor Mini Meeting hall, BMTC Central Office Shantinagar
Last date & time for submission of bids is on	**16.01.2025 up to 17:00 hrs**	
Opening of Technical bids is on	**18.01.2025 up to 11:00 hrs**	
Opening of Financial bids is on	**To be Intimated later**	

Further details in this regard can be obtained in the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by Contacting: 080-46010000; 080-68948777; or 7760991222, 7760997519. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**
Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

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ದೂ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ: 0821–2420810

ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ:19/2024–25 ದಿ: 30.12.2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ತಿ.ನರಸೀಪುರದ ಒಟ್ಟು 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–4ರ ಷರತ್ತು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ (viz https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಈ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಒಟ್ಟು 02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದಿ:31.12.2024 ರಿಂದ 15.01.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 17:00ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.115.18 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.1.73 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.139.99 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ.2.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಈ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ಅನ್ನು ದಿ:06.01.2025 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸದರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯೋಜಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಅಥವಾ ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡುಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟ್‌ಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/DDMYS/1030/KSMCA/690/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (EAST), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	East-2	BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1782/call-2	Rs.62,96,000/- / Rs.1,26,000/-	02.01.2025 upto 4:00 PM	09.01.2025 at 4:00 PM
2		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1784/call-2	Rs.72,72,000/- / Rs.1,46,000/-		
3		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1523/call-4	Rs.54,74,900/- / Rs.1,09,500/-		
4		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1553/call-4	Rs.70,86,700/- / Rs.1,41,800/-		
5		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/ WORK_INDENT1547/call-4	Rs.79,69,000/- / Rs.1,59,400/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (East-2)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

6	DC & BM	BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3498/ 2024-25 Date: 31.12.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.17,67,548/- / Rs.22,100/-	09.01.2025 upto 4:00 PM	10.01.2025 after 4:00 PM
7		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3500/ 2024-25 Date: 31.12.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.15,20,525/- / Rs.19,500/-		
8		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3424/ 2024-25 Date: 24.12.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.46,84,088/- / Rs.47,000/-		
9		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3422/ 2024-25 Date: 24.12.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.41,91,059/- / Rs.42,000/-		
10		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3411/ 2024-25 Date: 24.12.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.75,33,084/- / Rs.75,500/-		
11		BWSSB/EE(DC&BM)/PB/3414/ 2024-25 Date: 24.12.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	Rs.74,58,994/- / Rs.74,600/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Design-Civil & Building Maintenance)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

12	North East	BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/3004/ 2024-25, Date:31.12.2024 (5th Call)	Rs.78,86,655/- / Rs.1,57,800/-	09.01.2025 upto 3:00 PM	10.01.2025 after 4:00 PM
13		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/3005/ 2024-25, Date:31.12.2024 (5th Call)	Rs.79,12,958/- / Rs.1,58,300/-		
14		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/3007/ 2024-25, Date:31.12.2024 (5th Call)	Rs.67,69,991/- / Rs.1,35,400/-		
15		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/3006/ 2024-25, Date:31.12.2024 (5th Call)	Rs.30,49,461/- / Rs.61,000/-	09.01.2025 upto 4:00 PM	10.01.2025 after 3:00 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (North East)**

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

16	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/452/ 2024-25, Date:01.01.2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.20,20,000/- / Rs.50,500/-	09.01.2025 upto 5:30 PM	10.01.2025 after 4:00 PM
17		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/454/ 2024-25, Date:01.01.2025 (3rd Call)	Rs.95,23,422/- / Rs.1,90,500/-	09.01.2025 upto 4:00 PM	10.01.2025 after 4:05 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (UFW-2)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/BCPL/4062/2024-25

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/69/2024-25/1448 Date: 31-12-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri K. Narasimhamurthy has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to **Sy.No: 10/1** Extent of 02 Acre - 21½ Guntas of **Dodderi Village,** Tavarekere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture Zone** in Approved Master Plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the layout in the above said lands, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2) During the development works of the Layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4) By planned Layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good Roads, Parks etc.,

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/4049/Adverto/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of Chief Health Officer (Public Health), BBMP Head Office, Ground Floor, Annex-2, Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No. BBMP/2024-25/IND0099 Date : 01.01.2025

TENDER Notification

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike invites tenders from eligible bidders for the following:

1.	Tender Reference No. : 1) Tender for the supply of furnitures, instruments and other items to 20 namma clinics of BBMP 2) Tender for the supply, installation of Branding materials to 20 namma clinics of BBMP : **1) BBMP/2024-25/IND0099. 2) BBMP/2024-25/ IND 0100**
2.	Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka public procurement portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **On 01/01/2025 onwards**
3.	Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting : **04/01/2025 at 11:00 AM** at the following venue: Office of the Special Commissioner Health, 3rd Floor , Annexe 3, Bengaluru-560002.
4.	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public procurement portal : **04/01/2025 upto 5:00PM**
5.	Last Date and Time for uploading of eTender in Karnataka public procurement portal : **15/01/2025 upto 5:00PM**
6.	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids in Karnataka public procurement portal : **16/01/2025 5:10 PM**
7.	Date and Time of Demonstration of Sample submission : **Shall be intimated after technical bid opening**
8.	Address for Communication : **Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Office of the CHO Ground Floor, Annexe- 3 Building Bengaluru-560002. Email:choph515@gmail.com, 9845208571**

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the web site **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/-
Chief Health officer (Public Health)

Too little, too late

The situation in Manipur belies the Home Ministry's sanguine assessment

Conflict resolution and peace building, or the absence of both, and the prolongation of strife are dependent upon certain conditions. If there is a "winning side" in the conflict that seeks to restitute and reconcile with the losing side, then there is a guarantee of peace. If there are no winning sides but a honourable compromise is worked out between two sides, then too there is the possibility of lasting peace. There are also situations when conflicts are not resolved but a tenuous yet steady peace is maintained through dialogue and discussion. But a situation where violence raises its head time and again, and when actors in the conflict continue to be hostile without even talking to each other, cannot be described as "peaceful". The Union Home Ministry (MHA) has patted itself on the back by claiming that the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government has managed to "build bridges of unity in the North East... to usher in .. peace with unprecedented success". But if the Manipur situation where outcomes of the conflagration that raged in May 2023 continue to roil the State with sporadic skirmishes, and recurring crises are anything to go by, then the statement is not only a false claim but is also in line with the regime's efforts to portray success where failure is apparent in order to win the battle of perceptions.

Soon after this year-end report of the MHA came out, the beleaguered Chief Minister of Manipur, N. Biren Singh, issued an apology for the ethnic violence in the State. This, in any case, is too little too late in the day as his government does not seem to enjoy the confidence of at least one particular ethnic community in the State. For the MHA to portray that the northeast is on the path to peace and prosperity, even as the embers of the ethnic violence in Manipur refuse to die down and restrictive measures are being reimposed, can only be described as burying its head in the sand. In December, the Union government had also reimposed the Protected Area Regime amid "security concerns arising out of influx from neighbouring countries" – a reference to refugees from civil war-torn Myanmar. The MHA also said that it will map demographic data along the Myanmar border to help in the fencing of the international border and stopping infiltration. Again, it will be a grave mistake to bracket refugees fleeing the Myanmar junta's repression as infiltrators and this might exacerbate already fragile ethnic relations in border States such as Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. The MHA must instead focus on getting its act together in conducting the census and working with the State governments to bring out a humane policy of addressing the refugee situation. Short of doing so, the Ministry's encomiums to itself will be smug self-satisfaction devoid of all meaning.

Farm fire

Dallewal should end his fast and press for talks on farmers' demands

The sit-in protest that began almost a year ago by a group of farmers owing allegiance to the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (Non Political) at the Punjab-Haryana border has taken a new turn with their leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal refusing to end his indefinite fast, which started on November 26. The stand of the 70-year-old leader, a cancer patient, has drawn the attention of the Supreme Court. Farmers in the State, across their organisational and political positions, supported a Punjab bandh on December 30, in solidarity with Mr. Dallewal. The Court has allowed the Punjab government time till Thursday to ensure that Mr. Dallewal gets medical aid. The farmers' outfits have told the Court that their leader would accept medical help only if the Union Government held a discussion with them on their demands such as implementing a legalised Minimum Support Price as per the formula of the National Commission on Farmers (constituted by M.S. Swaminathan), a debt waiver for all farmers and the withdrawal of all cases against farmers for protesting against the three farm laws, which were repealed in 2021. Major farmers' organisations in the State, including the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Ugrahan) and the All India Kisan Sabha, have urged the Centre and State governments to address the demands so that Mr. Dallewal ends his fast. Several Opposition parties had also demanded that the Centre start a dialogue with farmers.

It is debatable how helpful the Court's ultimatum is in situations such as these, when policy, law and order and politics are all intertwined. Perhaps, the courts should not be so interfering and governments should be more proactive and preemptive in dealing with such flare-ups. The demands on the table have been pending for long, and the crisis in agriculture is multifaceted. But allowing these permanent sit-in protests is problematic when someone goes on a fast unto death because there is no way to know if he is being forced to starve to death or not allowed to end the fast. Many of the farmers' leaders have met Mr. Dallewal requesting him to end his hunger strike. However, such requests have been turned down with his supporters labelling other farmers' leaders as agents of the government. Sane voices among the farmers have been maintaining that Mr. Dallewal should join the joint protests rather than adopting his fast unto death protest. The Punjab and Haryana governments and the Union Government must ensure that his life is not in danger. Mr. Dallewal and his associates should heed the advice of other farmers' leaders and clear the apprehensions that he is under pressure to continue with the hunger strike.

The sorry state of India's parliamentary proceedings

Shashi Tharoor

the fourth-term Congress Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. He is the award-winning author of 26 books and the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award, the Crossword Lifetime Achievement Award, and other distinctions

The competitive disruptions of Parliament by both the Opposition and, more surprisingly, the Treasury benches, made the recently-concluded winter session of the legislature a travesty. There were more adjournments than discussions, hardly any work was done and the session was adjourned with the widespread sentiment that we had let down the people of India. A new nadir was plumbed when duelling demonstrations by Members of Parliament (MP) on the steps of the House led to accusations of assault and injury on both sides. For many of us who were brought up to regard Parliament as the temple of our democracy, its precincts as hallowed and its procedures and conventions as sacred, this seems a betrayal of everything the institution is supposed to represent as a cornerstone of our democracy.

Why have things come to such a sorry state? One obvious reason (as in everything to do with Parliament) is precedent. The recent demise of the distinguished director, Shyam Benegal, reminded me of the time when he and I both served, as private citizens in 2007, on a round table of eminent Indians invited by then-Speaker Somnath Chatterjee to advise him in the performance of his duties. Our group, which included N.R. Narayana Murthy of 70-hour work week fame, unanimously called for strict enforcement of the rules to ensure higher standards of decorum and debate, and were promptly disabused by the Speaker of our illusions. Disruptions, he said, occurred because an outnumbered Opposition saw them as part of their democratic rights; to thwart them by invoking the rule book would be condemned by all parties, including the ruling party, as undemocratic. So suspending, let alone expelling, MPs was not an option he could easily exercise.

'Part of convention' now, decline of civility

Whatever the merits of this method of parliamentary protest – and, personally, it is not something I have ever cared for – it has become part of the convention of Indian parliamentary practice. Speaker of the Lok Sabha Meira Kumar, whose decency and gentility were shamefully abused by a belligerent Bharatiya Janata Party, still averred that it would be wrong to expel unruly Opposition members without an all-party consensus on doing so.

Though Speakers of the Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan and Om Birla have proved more willing to suspend members – Mr. Birla essentially denuded the Lok Sabha of all opposition while steamrolling several Bills through the 2023 winter session – they have usually preferred adjournment to expulsion.

> The diminishing of Parliament is deeply damaging to India's democracy

A second factor is, undoubtedly, the acrimony that now prevails between the government and the Opposition. Traditionally, a sense of civility has always reigned in our politics: Atal Bihari Vajpayee loved telling the stories of Jawaharlal Nehru's courtesy to him as a young firebrand Opposition leader, Rajiv Gandhi contriving to get him medical attention in the United States, and, most famously, P.V. Narasimha Rao sending him to Geneva as the head of the Indian delegation to a United Nations meeting on Kashmir.

Today, such episodes are inconceivable. Each side sees itself as the embodiment of righteous virtue, and the others of irredeemable evil. To the ruling party, the Opposition is "anti-national"; the Opposition in turn imagine themselves as doughty outnumbered Pandavas facing the might (and the unfair means) of the Kauravas in power. Democracy requires both sides to accept, as a presumption, the good faith of the other; on all sides of our political divides, we must believe that those on the other side also have the best interests of the nation at heart, and that our disagreements are only over how to achieve them. But in Indian politics today, government and Opposition see each other as enemies, not mere adversaries. Common ground then becomes hard to find.

It is sad that our national politics has witnessed such a breakdown in the relationship of trust that, in any democracy, ought to exist between the government and the Opposition. Both sides are equally guilty: the present ruling party was just as bad when it was in Opposition. The very BJP politicians who had argued the case for disruption – who had used sophistry to justify obstructing the work of Parliament for years in the cause of the higher principle of accountability – suddenly decided that on this issue, where you stand depends on where you sit. Now that they are sitting on the Treasury benches, disruption is wasteful and condemnable. The Opposition, once their victims, will have none of it. Those of us who attended missionary schools learned the golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The new golden rule of Indian politics has become: do unto them what they did unto you.

The representative in today's Parliament

Third, arguably, is the public's own diminished expectations from parliamentarians. Gone are the days when skilled debaters and orators held sway on the floor of the legislature, winning public adulation (in those pre-television days) from admiring accounts of their speeches alone. A Ram Manohar Lohia, a Nath Pai, a George Fernandes, a Madhu Limaye, a Piloo Mody, or a Minoo Masani acquired political importance and stature, out of all proportion to the size of their parties, because of accounts of their verbal duels with a Nehru or an Indira Gandhi. Today there are no equivalents: while the occasional reasoned or impassioned speech enjoys a brief virality on YouTube or WhatsApp, these are few and far between, and the opportunities to deliver them are rarer still. Instead, there is a clear disconnect between electability and parliamentary performance.

People are elected or re-elected for reasons other than their ability to skewer a Minister in Question Hour or tear a government proposal apart through reasoned argument. The quality and the character of political representation has a direct correlation to the quality and the character of floor debates as well. When MPs are corralled by their Whips into breaking all the rules they are sworn to uphold, to troop into the well of the House and disrupt the proceedings through shouting and sloganeering rather than effective preparation and forensic skill, they are being judged by their leaders on qualities other than effective parliamentarianism. The talent that should be exhibited on the floor of the House is now paraded in television studios instead. The public in turn no longer judges their representatives by their performance in Parliament but by the constituent services they render and the local political weight they command. Most of the names I mentioned earlier would not find it easy to be re-elected in today's environment.

Disruption and contempt

Parliamentary standards have been in free fall for a generation. No one is elected or defeated at the polls because of their performance in Parliament. Most MPs have limited interest in legislation and prefer to disrupt the proceedings rather than debate the principles. Meanwhile, the BJP government refuses to reach out to the Opposition and is content to ride roughshod over it to pass its Bills. Its contempt for the legislature is barely concealed. Unlike Jawaharlal Nehru, who attended Parliament daily, Prime Minister Narendra Modi barely deigns to grace the House with his presence. In the last few years, the government has been increasingly treating Parliament as a noticeboard for the announcement of its decisions and a rubber stamp for legalising them, rather than as a consultative body in a deliberative democracy.

The diminishing of Parliament in our political life is deeply damaging to our democracy. Sadly, its custodians are allowing it to be robbed of all value, to the point where the public will not miss it when it is gone. But when it is gone, what will remain of our democracy?

Tackling delimitation by reversing population control

S. Irudaya Rajan

Chair at the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Kerala

M.A. Kalam

Visiting Professor at the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD), Kerala

Recently, the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, N. Chandrababu Naidu and M.K. Stalin, respectively, were quite peeved about the question of the proposed delimitation exercise and the possibility, subsequently, of the loss of parliamentary seats. This is very likely as the two States, along with the other southern States, are ahead of the rest of India in terms of fertility transition – implying a reduced share of the population when compared with the northern region. What is galling to people in general, and not necessarily just the politicians in south India, is that success in "family planning" will surely reduce the number of seats of the less populated States in Parliament.

"The state government [Andhra Pradesh] is thinking of enacting a law that would make only those with more than two children eligible to contest local body elections," Mr. Naidu had said. Earlier, Andhra Pradesh had passed a piece of legislation barring people with more than two children from contesting local polls. Mr. Naidu said, "We have repealed that law, and we are now considering reversing it.... Government may provide more benefits to families with more children."

Mr. Stalin's response was, "Today, as there is a scenario of decreasing Lok Sabha constituencies, it raises the question why should we restrict ourselves to having fewer children?" Mr. Stalin added in jest, "Why not aim for 16 children?"

The example of China

The question that arises in the light of the reactions and the responses of the Chief Ministers is: would it be possible to arrest fertility decline and, moreover, reverse it by attempting to increase it? It is evident that the attainment of low fertility in the course of fertility transition is hardly reversible by intervention, but in the natural course of events, there might be a minor reversal as suggested by experience worldwide. Despite this understanding, there are attempts being made in some countries to reverse the fertility trend through incentivisation, but to no effect. China's one-child policy was one of the desperate measures to realise population control. The consequences confronting the Chinese state on varied fronts include problems in the marriage market, a dependency burden and, above all, extreme low fertility beyond the scope for reversal.

> It is too simplistic a solution that is being put forth by some politicians in the southern States

Quick and forced regulatory measures to restrict reproduction have never paid dividends beyond restricting population counts. In fact, an emphasis on limiting population counts without caring for its composition that sustains the population may well be considered unplanned. China's case is an example wherein the state is facing numerous crises at this point over the familial transitions underway and the consequential burden of social security provisioning on the state.

An imbalanced population composition reached by intruding into the natural course of transition will pose problems that would only be remedied through promoting migration. Efforts at incentivising reproduction and adoption of a pro-natal population policy may not be an alternative as seen in countries such as Japan and South Korea. Hence, the response of the southern States to the emerging threat may well be considered premature and ineffective in the long run.

Varied population counts

The course of fertility decline in India's States does show signs of a convergence across space and characteristics but a population momentum keeps the demographic divide wider between regions. Given this circumstance, population counts between provinces may not be the appropriate criterion to have political representation that will defy the federal structure of our nation. 'One person one vote' may well be ideal but the difference in numbers of political representation in one region will be skewed beyond proportions. Unless these counts are weighed with some characteristics in terms of appropriating political representation, it will be unfair, for example, to a region that ushered in development with population control. This brings in a recognition of demographic divide apparent with education, coupled with the number of children being the criteria for shaping political outcomes.

Impact on women

Encouraging women to have more children may be easier said than done. In the current circumstances, a woman's personal loss in engaging in reproduction is much greater than imagined given the state's approach in facilitating the same. When the state celebrates the fertility decline and its dividend has benefited the larger cause, its implication in a woman's life has been less than expected. Therefore, thinking about fertility reversal needs to be preceded by measures of guaranteeing the state's social support for the additional children on the one hand and compensation for women's engagement in reproduction on the other.

Reversing fertility could well be ideal in terms of maintaining a sustainable population but the regional population imbalance can perhaps be addressed through migration in immediate terms. What needs to be answered is the ensuing disadvantage of a lower population count and political representation that can only be resolved provided the count gets an equivalence in valuation in terms of capability characteristics. Therefore, the ultimate solution lies not in reversing fertility but in revising count-based political representation in the delimitation exercise.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The state of Manipur

How far Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's expression of 'regret' and urge to 'make a new beginning' would solve the long-pending issues in his State are anybody's guess. In fact, his inability to do anything so far, in a positive sense, demands that there should be nothing less than his resignation from office. A more concerning matter is the Prime Minister. In the beginning, the Congress's demand that Mr. Modi visit Manipur was treated as a ritualistic anti-Modi slogan. But this has now changed maybe after the old saying, 'repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth'.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

Manmohan Singh

There have been many letters in this column paying tributes to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. While Dr. Singh was very successful as a Finance Minister, he cannot be awarded full marks as Prime Minister as it is under his stewardship that there were many scams. Sadder still was his closing his eyes to all the misdeeds. Impartial and dispassionate critics see him as a 100% Finance Minister and a 50% Prime Minister.

B.S. Jayaraman,
Coimbatore

The unwarranted spat between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress over Dr. Singh must not be stoked further as it would be an insult to the memory of the departed leader who always kept the interests of the nation above all else. Dr. Singh is ever alive in every Indian's heart. He has etched his name with his simplicity, statesmanship, constructive work, implementation of welfare measures and, above all, economic reforms which transformed the Indian economy.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Going to school barefoot

The feature, "Barefoot trek on raw road to education" (Online – 'Spotlight', December 27, 2024), was a good read. It was on the plight of the children in Kidagari, an interior tribal village in Andhra Pradesh, walking through forests in a hilly region without footwear. But how can the villagers not care about snake bites or multiple dangers from other creatures?
Every parent will look at the safety of his child, no matter how poor or even how remote and treacherous the place. It is puzzling how the villagers or the system can afford to spend money on good uniforms, backpacks and study materials, but ignore basic safety by not providing any footwear.

Amar Singh,
Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Youth at the forefront of climate litigation

Nabeela Siddiqui

Assistant Professor, Vinayaka Mission's Law School, VMRF-DU, Chennai

Youth-led climate litigation is revolutionising the global response to the climate crisis. By holding governments and corporations accountable, young people frame climate inaction as a human rights violation. They argue that the disproportionate impacts on younger generations demand bold, systemic solutions. This litigation emphasises the urgent need for climate action, pushing for transformative change to address the escalating emergency. It serves as a powerful tool for advocating for climate justice and protecting the rights of future generations.

Major milestones

A landmark moment in youth-led climate litigation occurred with the *Held v. State of Montana* case in the U.S. In a historic decision, the Montana Supreme Court upheld a district court ruling in favour of 16 young plaintiffs who argued that Montana's fossil fuel policies violated their constitutional rights and failed to address the climate crisis. This 6-1 decision marked the first time a U.S. State Supreme Court affirmed young people's constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment in the context of climate change. The roots of the case trace back to August 2023, when district court judge Kathy Seeley ruled in favour of the plaintiffs, making *Held v. Montana* the first youth-led constitutional climate lawsuit in the U.S. to go to trial and secure a victory.

Judge Seeley underscored the direct link between greenhouse gas emissions and the worsening climate crisis, emphasising that each ton of emissions amplifies environmental harm. Her ruling broadened Montana's constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment by including the protection of the broader climate system. The Supreme Court upheld her findings, striking down laws restricting greenhouse gas considerations in fossil fuel permitting and blocking constitutional remedies for environmental harm. This decision mandates Montana to integrate climate and public health concerns into its energy policies, marking a governance shift. It underscores intergenerational equity and inspires youth-led efforts to shape climate policy.

Youth-led climate litigation is gaining traction globally. In Canada, *La Rose v. His Majesty King* case represents a significant step forward. In this lawsuit, young plaintiffs argue that Canada's insufficient climate policies violate their rights to life, liberty, and security under Section 7 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Canadian federal government recently announced it would not seek to dismiss the case, paving the way for an eight-week trial scheduled for October 2026 in Vancouver. The plaintiffs contend that current policies disproportionately harm children and youth. They advocate for a mandate requiring the government to implement a comprehensive, science-aligned climate recovery plan.

In the Netherlands, a court ruling compelled the government to adopt stricter emissions targets. Colombia's Supreme Court recognised the Amazon rainforest as a legal entity, mandating its protection for future generations. Germany's Constitutional Court required stronger climate policies to uphold youth rights.

India has seen its share of youth-driven climate litigation, most notably through a petition filed in March 2017 by nine-year-old Ridhima Pandey before the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Her petition sought measures including integrating climate change into environmental impact assessments, establishing a national greenhouse gas inventory, and creating carbon budgets for development projects.

In 2019, the NGT dismissed her case. However, her appeal to the Supreme Court is pending, with the court appointing *amicus curiae* and requesting government inputs on carbon rules. Ms. Pandey's efforts have profoundly influenced India's climate discourse, showcasing the youth's role in demanding stronger policies and intergenerational equity.

> Youth-driven climate litigation is revolutionising the global climate movement, achieving landmark wins, and demanding government accountability

Transformative implications

Youth-driven legal battles are transforming climate policy, evolving from awareness campaigns led by figures like Greta Thunberg to courtroom advocacy demanding systemic change. These lawsuits emphasise the intersection of human rights and environmental sustainability, inspiring global movements and compelling governments to rethink inadequate climate strategies.

In India, the path to youth climate activism is complex, with increasing crackdowns on protests and shrinking spaces for public engagement. Despite this, youth groups persist, using digital platforms and aligning with movements led by farmers and tribal communities. This resilience underscores their commitment. As young activists challenge policies in courts, the outcomes of cases could shape the future of climate activism in India. Protecting their advocacy rights is crucial to amplifying their voices and achieving climate justice.

Youth-driven climate litigation is revolutionising the global climate movement, achieving landmark wins, and demanding government accountability. By stressing intergenerational equity and science-based policies, young activists push governments to prioritise bold and sustainable actions. These legal efforts underscore the crucial role of youth in shaping climate policy and safeguarding the planet's future. By leveraging the law, young people are driving transformative change, ensuring a liveable world for generations to come, and inspiring a new wave of climate leadership and activism.

Woman Minister on receiving end

The alleged remark of C.T. Ravi against Laxmi Hebbalkar reflects a larger mindset

STATE OF PLAY

S Bageshree
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Irony died a thousand deaths when the BJP's State president B.Y. Vijayendra said that men in his party were "not wearing bangles" to stay quiet in the face of "police high handedness" while responding to the arrest of MLC C.T. Ravi. The BJP legislator was arrested for allegedly using a derogatory and sexist word about Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar during the recently concluded session of the Legislature.

Karnataka has seen much wrangling between political leaders since Mr. Ravi allegedly used a slur in the Legislative Council hall against Ms. Hebbalkar on December 19. This incident occurred after the council was adjourned following a fracas over Union Minister Amit Shah's remarks on B.R. Ambedkar. But, the members had stayed on and continued their loud arguments. With the House not in session at that point, there is no "official record" of the alleged slur used, but the video clip has been freely floating around on social media platforms.

Mr. Ravi initially claimed that he had said "frustrate" and the Minister misheard him. Ms. Hebbalkar, however, said that the word, besides being abusive, trivialised her hard work in building a political career.

Mr. Ravi was booked under Sections 75 (sexual harassment) and 79 (word, gesture, or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and arrested soon after. He has alleged that he was harassed in police custody, at the

behest of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. But he was released the following day after approaching the Karnataka High Court. Observing that the police *prima facie* failed to follow the procedure in arresting the MLC, the court directed the police to release him immediately.

Since the offences charged against him attract imprisonment of less than seven years, the police were obliged to issue a notice to him under Section 35 of the BNS for appearing for questioning before arresting him in a "tearing hurry", the court said.

Following this, a triumphant Mr. Ravi made it a point to address more than one press conference, sporting a bandage on his head for injuries he allegedly sustained while he was being taken in a police van. Many angry BJP men, including Mr. Vijayendra, rallied behind Mr. Ravi unconditionally, giving rest to their faction feuds.

No doubt the Congress government did not cover itself in glory in handling the situation. For one, as the court pointed out, there were procedural lapses. An impression was created that the Home Minister lacked control over the situation as police acted swiftly. Questions have also been raised on the issue of jurisdiction, given that it occurred within the House and the role of the Chairperson in addressing the episode. While a CID inquiry by the State police is now under way, the Opposition has demanded a judicial probe claiming a "plot to kill" Mr. Ravi.

However, what has lost focus under a mountain of questions on procedure and whataboutery ("But aren't men in all parties the same?" etc.) is the core issue of the alleged abuse of the lone woman Minister in Karnataka's Cabinet and one among the only 10 elected women Members of the Legislative Assembly. Casual sexism, cutting across party barriers, is indeed not uncommon in the House or the course of poll campaigns, but that should not make it "normal" or acceptable. Mr. Ravi had in an earlier instance, talking about political opportunism, used the word "*nitya sumangali*" (a term used to refer to those in Devadasi tradition) and incurred the wrath of a few women members including Ms. Hebbalkar.

The incident raises two questions: Could such remarks have been made in a House with a better gender balance? And why do such incidents not amount to sexual harassment in the workplace?

Given the situation in Karnataka, where new political high dramas unfold daily, and are magnified by private news channels, all issues live intense but fleeting lives. Already, the Ms. Hebbalkar case is fading into the background, with the Opposition now busy mounting pressure on the ruling Congress for a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry into the suicide of a contractor, allegedly owing to pressure to pay money by the close aide of a Minister. However, one can be sure it is a matter of time before a case similar to that of Ms. Hebbalkar turns up again, like a bad penny.

School dropout rates go from bad to worse in Bihar and Assam

Dropout rates in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana are also concerning

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Samreen Wani

There has been a marked improvement in the share of students continuing education into higher grades in 2024 compared to 2019, across India, without dropping out of school. Overall, of every 100 girls who started schooling, over 80 completed their secondary education without dropping out in 2024 compared to just 73.5 in 2019. Among boys, the corresponding numbers were 77.2 and 72.4 in 2024 and 2019 respectively, showing an increase, though to a lesser degree.

However, despite this improvement at an all-India level, certain major States such as Karnataka and Rajasthan have recorded significant spikes in students dropping out of upper primary and secondary schools. In Bihar and Assam – States where the dropout rates were already concerning in 2019 – the rates have slipped further in 2024.

For instance, in Karnataka, of the 100 girls who started schooling only 76.5 completed secondary education without dropping out in 2024 compared to 79.3 in 2019. Similarly, for boys, the ratio declined to 70.7 from 73.6. In Bihar, the ratio slipped from bad to worse in the same period. Of the 100 girls who started schooling only 40.3 completed secondary education without dropping out in 2024 compared to 51.6 of them in 2019. Similarly, for boys, the ratio declined to 38.8 from 51.2.

Table 1 shows the number of students out of every 100 who completed upper primary and secondary education in 2024 and 2019. The data is provided for all major States across both genders. In direct contrast to States such as Bihar and Assam, where the situation went from bad to worse, in States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the figures improved from good to excellent.

For instance, in Kerala, of the 100 boys who started schooling, 99.6 completed upper primary in 2019, which improved further to 100 in 2024. The number remained at 100 among girls for both years. Similarly, of the 100 boys who started schooling, 88.3 completed secondary education in 2019, which improved to 95.7 in 2024. The corresponding numbers among girls were 93.2 and 97.5.

Similarly, in Tamil Nadu, of the 100 boys who started schooling, 99 completed upper primary in 2019, which improved to 100 in 2024. Among girls, the number improved from 97.5 to 100. In secondary schooling, among boys, the number improved from 81.3 to 89.2, and among girls, it improved from 89.4 to 95.6.

While the absolute increase or decrease in the share of school students who pass on to higher grades without getting dropped out is one facet of the story, analysing the degree of increase or decrease brings out further nuances. To arrive at the degree of increase or decrease, the States were ranked as shown in **Table 2**.

For instance, in 2019, of the 100 girls who started schooling in Maharashtra, 83.5 completed secondary education, a figure similar to that of Uttarakhand that year. In 2024, Maharashtra's figures improved to 90.5, however, Uttarakhand's numbers increased even further to 92.8. While both States improved, the degree of rise was steeper for Uttarakhand.

Because of this, in **Table 2**, Uttarakhand's rankings improved from 11th to 4th (for secondary girls) while Maharashtra's rankings improved only from 12th to 7th.

States such as Gujarat have remained stagnant at the bottom of the ranking table in both years. Haryana has recorded massive drops in its rankings. The State was part of the top 10 list in all school levels across genders in 2019 and moved out of the list in 2024.

Falling attendance

The figures in the tables are The Hindu's calculations based on data sourced from UDISE+

Table 1: Table shows the number of students out of every 100 who completed upper primary and secondary education in 2024 ('24) and 2019 ('19). Upper primary: Class VI to VIII, Secondary: Class IX and X

- In Kerala, of the 100 boys who started schooling, 99.6 completed upper primary in 2019, which improved further to 100 in 2024

	Upper primary				Secondary			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
State	'19	'24	'19	'24	'19	'24	'19	'24
Kerala	99.6	100	100	100	88.3	95.7	93.2	97.5
HP	99.6	99.3	99.2	99.6	90.7	93.5	92.5	95.6
Tamil Nadu	99	100	97.5	100	81.3	89.2	89.4	95.6
Punjab	95.7	96.9	95.8	97.8	82.7	90	86.2	92.8
Uttarakhand	92.2	97.1	93.1	98.1	79.9	88.5	83.6	92.8
Goa	97.7	98	97.4	98.1	85.4	87.8	91.2	92.3
Maharashtra	97.1	99.3	96.3	99.5	83.4	88.3	83.5	90.5
Telangana	95.2	99.9	95.2	100	79.9	86.6	83.6	90.5
Delhi	98.7	99.4	99.2	99.4	82.6	87.8	85.5	90.3
Andhra	98.7	98.4	99.1	99.2	81.2	84.2	83.9	88.6
Odisha	92.2	97.8	91.1	98.3	80.4	83.7	83.9	87
UP	87.3	95.2	81.7	93.5	71.8	85.4	66.1	86.2
Tripura	91.4	94.7	93.9	96.1	62	84	64.2	86
West Bengal	92.4	100	97.1	100	73	78.5	77.5	85.8
Haryana	98.3	93	97.7	95.6	82.6	77.3	84	84.2
J&K	87.8	94.9	86.1	95.4	69.9	80.8	68.4	82.8
Chhattisgarh	88.9	91.8	90.2	94.2	64.7	71.6	74.6	81.6
Nagaland	82	88.8	86	90.6	56.3	76.6	63.5	79.5
Manipur	89	91.6	92.1	92.6	76.1	76	78.9	77.6
Mizoram	88.2	89.6	90.6	91.8	77	74.4	80.5	77.4
MP	91.3	91.8	90.2	92.8	65.7	72.2	66.2	77.3
Sikkim	92.2	90.8	94.8	94.3	65.9	69.8	73.5	77.1
Rajasthan	91.2	84.8	90.8	86.6	78.6	72.6	78	76.9
Gujarat	91.5	96.3	89	95	65.7	73	67.8	76.7
Karnataka	100	95.2	99.5	96.1	73.6	70.7	79.3	76.5
Jharkhand	83.1	89.5	85.7	90.8	61	74.3	63.3	75.7
Arunachal	79.2	87.1	79.9	88.4	42.3	66.7	44.9	70.2
Assam	93.4	82.6	96.7	88.7	62.6	57.4	64.6	63.7
Meghalaya	70.7	77.8	76.5	82.1	49.8	54.6	58.2	61
Bihar	78.6	65	81.1	65.4	51.2	38.8	51.6	40.3
INDIA	91.1	92.7	90.6	93	72.4	77.2	73.5	80.4

- In Bihar, of the 100 girls who started schooling, only 40.3 completed secondary education in 2024 compared to 51.6 of them in 2019

Table 2: The table ranks the States across each column based on the figures given in table 1. For instance, Karnataka was ranked number 1 in the first column as all the 100 boys who started schooling completed upper primary education in 2019

	Upper primary				Secondary			
	Boys		Girls		Boys		Girls	
State	'19	'24	'19	'24	'19	'24	'19	'24
Kerala	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
HP	3	6	3	5	1	2	2	2
Tamil Nadu	4	1	7	1	8	4	4	2
Punjab	10	12	12	12	5	3	5	4
Uttarakhand	14	11	16	10	11	5	11	4
Goa	8	9	8	10	3	8	3	6
Maharashtra	9	6	11	6	4	6	12	7
Telangana	11	4	13	1	11	9	10	7
Delhi	5	5	3	7	6	7	6	9
Andhra	5	8	5	8	9	11	8	10
Odisha	16	10	18	9	10	13	8	11
UP	25	14	27	20	18	10	23	12
Tripura	18	17	15	13	25	12	25	13
West Bengal	13	1	9	1	17	15	17	14
Haryana	7	18	6	15	6	16	7	15
J&K	24	16	24	16	19	14	20	16
Chhattisgarh	22	19	21	19	23	24	18	17
Nagaland	27	25	25	25	27	17	26	18
Manipur	21	21	17	22	15	18	15	19
Mizoram	23	23	20	23	14	19	13	20
MP	19	19	21	21	22	23	22	21
Sikkim	14	22	14	18	20	26	19	22
Rajasthan	20	27	19	28	13	22	16	23
Gujarat	17	13	23	17	21	21	21	24
Karnataka	1	15	2	14	16	25	14	25
Jharkhand	26	24	26	24	26	20	27	26
Arunachal	28	26	29	27	30	27	30	27
Assam	12	28	10	26	24	28	24	28
Meghalaya	30	29	30	29	29	29	28	29
Bihar	29	30	28	30	28	30	29	30

- In the first column, Meghalaya is ranked last as 30th as of the 100 boys who started schooling, only 78.6 completed upper primary in 2019, the least among all States

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 2, 1975

Move to delink jobs from degrees runs into difficulties

New Delhi, Jan. 1: A proposal mooted by the Union Education Ministry to delink jobs from degrees is running into difficulties. A preliminary sounding of various Economic Ministries has shown that none of them is in favour of employing persons who do not hold degrees even for class III posts.

The proposal is by no means a new one, and over 15 years ago, it was suggested by a committee headed by Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar that a degree should not be considered a pre-requisite for certain kinds of jobs under the Government. But the Government has not accepted this suggestion and for most of the posts under both the Central and State Governments, a university degree is considered a must.

Suddenly the Education Ministry has come to think that the mad rush to colleges and universities could be reduced only if a degree was not insisted upon for certain types of jobs. Even here, the sponsors of the proposal in the Ministry are motivated only by a desire to restrict admission into higher institutes of learning rather than to throw open jobs which can be held by persons with lower educational qualifications to non-degree holders.

At a recent meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education, considerable concern was expressed over the disillusionment that has set in among the educated youth because of the large-scale unemployment among them. The Education Minister made an announcement that shortly a committee would be set up to consider the question of delinking jobs from degrees.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 2, 1925

The capital of Norway.

Leafield (Oxford), Midnight, Jan. 1: The British Government has been officially notified by the Norwegian Government that Christiana from to-day reverts to its ancient name of Oslow.

In a leading article on the subject the *Times* says: "In this country all of us heartily desire that our relations with Oslow may be as friendly as our relations with Christiana have been for generations. We wish the capital of Norway continuation and expansion of the progress and prosperity which she has enjoyed and deserved."

From Page One

Punjabi singer Babbu Maan meets farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal on Wednesday. PTI

Will accept SC decision on Dallewal stir: Centre

The committee, headed by former High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh had invited the SKM to join its meeting on Friday. "The SKM in principle does not accept intervention of the court because the farmers are fighting on policy issues with the Union government and hence the court has no role to play. In this context, SKM expresses its inability to accept the invitation for the discussion by the SC-appointed High Powered Committee," the SKM said in a statement.

Mr. Pandher asked the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab to pass a resolution in favour of the farmers' demands in the Assembly. "Besides, the AAP government should reject the Centre's draft National Policy Framework on Agricultural Marketing," he added.

A group of 101 farmers had made attempts to restart their foot march from Punjab to the national capital, New Delhi, on December 6, December 8 and December 14. However, in the wake of elaborate security arrangements with multi-layer barricades put in place by the Haryana government, their foot march had come to a halt. Mr. Dallewal has been on a fast unto death since November 26 in support of the farmers' demands at Khanauri.

Net GST growth slumps to 3.3% in December

Overall growth in net GST revenues in the first nine months of 2024-25 now stands at 8.6%, with collections of almost ₹14.45 lakh crore, slowing from the 9.2% growth recorded till November. The Centre has penned in an expected growth of 11% in its Budget arithmetic for this year.

The GST kitty growth is in line "with the bit of a slowdown in GDP growth", reckoned Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at KPMG. "As it is expected that the GDP growth will inch north in this quarter, the GST collections should mirror the same," he said. Domestic transactions grew about 8%, as four States recorded a contraction in GST revenues compared to seven in November. Arunachal Pradesh remained the worst hit for the third straight month, with revenues dropping 27% in December, followed by Meghalaya (-12%).

Manipur reported yet another month of revenue slippage, with the pace of contraction doubling to 8% from 4% in November. GST receipts also dropped 6% in Andhra Pradesh, from a 10% decline in November.

After 40 years, Bhopal gas tragedy toxic waste leaves city

The spill-free trucks carrying 337 tonnes of chemical waste are expected to reach Pithampur early today; the waste will be incinerated between a period of three and nine months, says official

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Police personnel deployed during the collection of toxic waste for disposal from the Bhopal's Union Carbide factory. FILE PHOTO

Twelve trucks carrying toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory site in Bhopal left for the Pithampur industrial area near Indore at 9.05 p.m. on Wednesday amid heavy security. The waste was lying at the site for 40 years after the tragedy that claimed the lives of more than 5,000 people.

While the police had cordoned off the nearby area and blocked traffic, bystanders on the sides could be heard saying, "Bhopal's garbage has left finally."

The spill-free trucks carrying 337 tonnes of chemical waste were expected to reach Pithampur early on Thursday. The authorities had prepared a 250-km green corridor for movement of the trucks, which are expected to reach Pithampur with no stops in between. The unloading of the waste will begin immediately.

According to authorities, the packing and loading of the waste began on December 28 by more than 100 specially trained workers under the supervision of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board (MPPCB) and various scientific experts.

With the process of disposal beginning with the packing of waste on December 28, it will now be incinerated at a Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility (TSDF) in Pithampur of Dhar district, according to Swatantra Kumar Singh, Director, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation Directorate.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said that the waste will be incinerated between a period of three and nine months. The authorities will first incinerate a small batch, burning it at a high temperature using diesel, and examine its impact on the local environment.

On December 3, the Madhya Pradesh High Court had set a four-week deadline for the authorities for the disposal of the toxic waste. A Division Bench had pulled up authorities over the delay in the disposal of the waste and had asked the Chief Secretary to appear before the court in case of failure in adherence to the deadline. The government now plans to submit an affidavit on the development in the court on January 3. The next hearing is on January 6.

Meanwhile, locals and activists in Pithampur and Indore have been protesting the shifting of the waste as they fear that it could pollute the local environment and waterbodies. The government has, however, refuted the claims.

Tiger released back into Odisha's Similipal reserve

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Zeenat had been keeping forest officials on their toes for over three weeks.

Zeenat, the three-year-old tiger that had been wandering for three weeks near the boundaries of three States before being brought to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve, was released into a soft enclosure in the reserve's southern division on Wednesday, marking a new home for the big cat as the New Year begins.

Zeenat was translocated from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra to the Similipal Tiger Reserve on November 14 as part of a strategy to boost the genetic diversity of the reserve's big cat population.

It has been a matter of concern that a significant number of tigers in Similipal displayed pseudo-melanism, characterised by black stripes that are much more pronounced than the typical colouration of a Royal Bengal Tiger. This is largely a result of inbreeding.

Under the supervision of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, Zeenat, and another tiger Jamuna, were released into the Similipal Tiger Reserve.

Zeenat was released into the wild following 10 days of acclimatisation in the core area of Similipal's northern division. The dispersing female tiger, in process of establishing her territory, strayed into Jharkhand and then West Bengal in the first week of December. After weeks of hide and seek, Zeenat was captured in West Bengal on December 29.

Scorpene-class submarine among 3 frontline platforms to be inducted by Navy on Jan. 15

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to commission three frontline platforms into service at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on January 15. These are the sixth and last Scorpene-class submarine, *Vagsheer*; the fourth and last of the Project-15B stealth destroyers, *Surat;* and the lead ship of the Project-17A stealth frigates, *Nilgiri*.

"This historic event will provide a significant boost to the Indian Navy's combat potential while underscoring the country's preeminent status in indigenous shipbuilding. The successful commissioning of these advanced warships and submarines highlights the rapid progress made in warship design and construction, cementing India's position as a global leader in defence manufacturing," the Navy said in a statement.

All three platforms had been manufactured at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL), Mumbai. While the two ships are indigenously designed, the Scorpene-class submarines are manufactured in India under licence from Naval Group of France.

Nilgiri, the lead ship of Project-17A, is a major advancement over the Shivalik-class frigates, incorporating significant stealth features and reduced radar signatures through state-of-the-art technology. The Project-15B destroyer, *Surat*, is the culmination of the follow-on class to the Kolkata-class (Project-15A) destroyers, featuring substantial improvements in design and capabilities. Both ships were designed by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau and equipped with advanced sensors and weapon packages developed primarily in India or through strategic collaborations with leading global manufacturers, the Navy stated.

Naval boost: The sixth Scorpene-class submarine *Vagsheer.*

Aviation facilities

"The vessels have undergone rigorous trials, including machinery, hull, fire-fighting, and damage-control assessments, as well as proving all navigation and communication systems at sea, making them fully operational and ready for deployment."

Equipped with modern aviation facilities, *Nilgiri* and *Surat* can operate a range of helicopters, including Chetak, Dhruv, Sea King, and the newly inducted MH-60R, during both day and night operations. Features such as a Rail-Less Helicopter Traversing System and a Visual Aid and Landing System ensure seamless operations under all conditions, the Navy said. "These ships also include specific accommodations to support a sizeable complement of women officers and sailors, aligning with the Navy's progressive steps toward gender inclusion in frontline combat roles."

Report FCRA violations by NGOs, govt. asks CAs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday notified that chartered accountants filing audit returns on behalf of NGOs need to specify if the organisation violated provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA) or not.

The Act requires a CA to certify if an association or NGO has utilised foreign contribution received for the purposes it was registered for and the annual statements are to be uploaded on the FCRA portal.

In a December 31 notification, the Ministry said that CAs will have to mention the name, email address, and registration number of the auditor while issuing the audit certificate and specify if the NGO has "violated the provisions of FCRA, 2010 or rules made thereunder or notifications issued thereunder," with the details of the violations.

The auditors will also have to specify if the NGO has not made any violation.

"I have examined all relevant books and records, including the items mentioned in column 8 of FC-4, and to the best of my knowledge and belief (name of the person/ association) has not violated any provisions of the FCRA, thereunder or notifications issued thereunder," the CAs will have to specify. The notification amends the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.

A member of a voluntary group said the Home Ministry notification will make it more difficult for NGOs who are critical of the government to find auditors to file returns on their behalf. "Even if you find an FCRA donor, CAs will be scared to prepare certificates on the behalf of NGOs who are perceived to be not in the good books of the government," said the member.

Earlier in 2021, the Ministry advised chartered accountants to ensure that foreign funds are received and utilised by NGOs "within the four corners of law".

Hindu bodies differ on allowing men to wear shirt in Kerala temples

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Major Hindu organisations in Kerala are divided over a suggestion to allow men to wear shirts while entering temples in the State.

Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust president Swami Sathchidananda had given a call to end the practice of men removing shirts in temples, terming it "regressive". Backing him, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said his words "echoed the reformist thought, life, and message of Sree Narayana Guru."

While the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam, an organisation of the Ezhava community, has decided to renew its call permitting men to wear shirts, the Nair Service Society (NSS) has left it to the discretion of individual temple authorities.

"The Yogam will direct all its office-bearers to end the outdated practice in the temples managed by them at a meeting in Kollam on January 4. We will write to all office-bearers at the grassroots levels in this regard. The organisation had been campaigning to end the practice," said Vellapally Natesan, general secretary of the Yogam.

The Travancore and Guruvayur Devaswom Boards are yet to finalise their positions on the issue.

NSS general secretary G. Sukumaran Nair said there was "no uniformity" in such practices in the Kerala temples managed by the organisation. It is more of a customary practice and would be better if left to the individual temple authorities to decide, he said.

S. Radhakrishnan Potty, state general secretary of the Akhila Kerala Thanthri Mandalam, an organisation of Kerala Brahmin priests, said such practices are part of the pledge jointly taken by devotees, priests and those with the customary temple rights at the time of installation of the deity, which can be seldom modified.

P.S. Prasanth, president of the Travancore Devaswom Board, said while men are allowed to enter temples like Sabarimala wearing shirts, it was not the case with some major temples namely the ones at Karikkakom and Eattumanoor.

'Retiring paramilitary personnel may get honorary senior rank'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Anish Dayal Singh

Amid delays in promotion, the government is mulling honorary senior ranks for eligible Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel a month before they retire in order to "boost their morale", according to Anish Dayal Singh, who retired as Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director-General on December 31.

Mr. Singh, in conversation with CRPF officers on the last day in office, said that jawans and officers who benefit from the Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) but have not been granted promotion due to constraints of the organising principle of the security force may use the insignia for the next senior rank on their uniforms a month before they retire. For example, if a person was retiring on the constable rank and was eligible to be promoted as head constable, he or she may use the latter rank.

"For retiring personnel, to display the senior rank on his uniform to his family members and people in his village, it will be a morale boosting step. Home Minister [Amit Shah] has agreed to the proposal and I was hoping that the orders will come in a day or two but I think there will be a slight delay. It may require a little more deliberation but the proposal will be finalised soon for all the Central Armed Police Forces," Mr. Singh said.

CAPF personnel are entitled to at least three promotions during service. In the absence of promotion, the MACP ensures financial benefits of the next senior rank on completion of 10, 20 and 30 years of service.

According to the proposal, the promotion or the senior rank will reflect in the service records and personnel will be given the pay eligible, a senior CRPF official said.

Four 'terrorist associates' arrested at Tral in J&K

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Four local people, described as "terrorist associates" by the police, were arrested at Tral in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

According to the Jammu and Kashmir police, the four arrested youth were "terrorist associates" of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in the Tral area.

They were involved in "providing logistics support and transportation of arms and ammunition to active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit JeM in Tral and Awantipora areas". The arrested youth were identified as Mudasir Ahmad Naik, Umar Nazir Sheikh, Inayat Firdoos Rather and Salman Nazir Lone, all residents of Tral.

"Incriminating materials have been recovered from their possession," the police said.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, one of the oldest security bunkers in the city has been dismantled, in view of the improved security situation. The bunker was constructed by the BSF in the early 1990s.

Centre, States roped in 54,800 to monitor online content: report

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and various State governments have roped in around 54,800 persons as volunteers against cyber crime to flag unlawful content on the Internet, according to the Ministry's annual report for the year 2023-24.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry launched the programme in 2020 aiming to "bring together citizens with passion to serve the nation on a single platform and contribute in fight against cybercrime in the country."

According to I4C, the Cyber Volunteer Framework enables citizens to enrol as cyber volunteers for reporting unlawful content, dissemination of cyber hygiene, and as cyber expert to aid law enforcement.

The report stated that 54,833 cyber volunteers have been enrolled, including 22,942 for reporting unlawful content, 22,071 awareness promoters and 9,819 experts.

'Any material against sovereignty and integrity of India, against defence of India' can be flagged as unlawful content

The Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a digital liberties organisation, had criticised the scheme stating that it will lead to a "culture of surveillance and constant suspicion in society creating potential social distrust."

A student at a Central university in Gujarat who volunteers with the I4C, said that during the G-20 conference last year in India, he along with others flagged several cyber-attacks on government websites and servers.

The volunteers can register through the portal www.cybercrime.gov.in and flag unlawful content which has been categorised as "any material against sovereignty and integrity of India, against defence of India, against security of the State, and against friendly relations with foreign States". It also includes content aimed at disturbing public order.

SpaDeX first of many as ISRO prepares for Chandrayaan-4

At various points during the moon mission, the modules will undergo a series of docking and undocking manoeuvres before finally transporting a canister of lunar soil back to the earth; docking is a crucial technology for India to master

T.S. Subramanian
CHENNAI

There will be a series of space-docking experiments before the Indian Space Research Organisation embarks on its Chandrayaan-4 mission to bring soil samples from the moon to earth, the ISRO has said.

On Monday, the C60 mission of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) placed two satellites, each weighing 220 kg, in orbit. They will rendezvous and dock with each other as part of the ISRO's first Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX).

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said "the nominal time" for the docking "will be approximately January 7". He added, "The two SpaDeX satellites have moved one behind the other, so over a period of time, they will pick up further distance. The distance will increase by 20 km over the next few days and then the rendezvous and docking process will start."

Important steps: The ISRO launching the PSLV-C60 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Monday. ANI

For Chandrayaan-4, the ISRO will launch the mission's modules in two Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) rockets. At various points during the mission, the modules will undergo a series of docking and undocking manoeuvres before finally transporting a canister of lunar soil safely back to earth.

Mr. Somanath said on Tuesday, "2025 will be an exciting year as the ISRO will launch four GSLV rockets, three PSLV launches as well as an SSLV launch." (GSLV is short for Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle and SSLV for Small Satellite Launch Vehicle).

Key for future missions

Docking is a crucial technology for India to master for the Chandrayaan-4 as well as its forthcoming orbital Bharatiya Antariksh Station, expected to be ready by 2035, and for its goal to send an Indian astronaut to the moon.

Chandrayaan-4 Study Director P. Veeramuthuvel said, "Docking is important for all future missions of the ISRO because you cannot launch everything in one go. So you need docking of modules in space. ... There will be five modules in BAS, all of which require docking. This technology is crucial for bringing back the lunar soil samples and for India's constant presence in space."

The two satellites in the current SpaDeX mission are in a circular orbit 475 km above the earth. "At that height, the two satellites will be moving at a speed of 28,000 km an hour," said former ISRO Associate Director B.R. Guruprasad. "You must establish the orbit of both the satellites. To bring them together, you have to match their speeds. It is not easy to match and adjust their speeds precisely, make them come close to each other and then dock. There lies the challenge."

Does RSS support BJP's 'wrongdoings', Kejriwal asks Mohan Bhagwat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has written to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat asking if the Sangh Parivar's mothership supports the actions of BJP leaders who have allegedly been distributing money to buy votes in Delhi.

Dalits and Purvanchalis are seeing large-scale deletions of their names from Delhi's voter list, the AAP chief alleged in his letter, asking whether the RSS thinks this is right for democracy. The former Delhi Chief Minister asked Mr. Bhagwat whether the RSS endorsed these "wrongdoings" allegedly committed by the BJP.

Arvind Kejriwal

BJP hits back

Hitting back, the BJP said the people of Delhi were seeking answers from Mr. Kejriwal regarding his "lies, opportunism, and failure" to meet public expectations for development. The BJP accused him of creating new dramas and distractions to divert attention from his "shortcomings".

Mr. Kejriwal asked Mr. Bhagwat if the RSS supported the "large-scale" deletion of Purvanchali and Dalit votes by the party. "There are reports in the media that the RSS will seek votes for the BJP in the Delhi elections. Before this, people wanted to know from you if the RSS is supporting the wrongdoings of the BJP in the past few days," he said in his December 30 letter in Hindi.

Responding to the allegations, Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva wrote to Mr. Kejriwal on Wednesday, urging him to make a New Year resolution to give up "dishonest and deceitful" political behaviour.

"In the letter, Sachdeva made five specific requests for resolutions he hopes Kejriwal will adopt this year: 1. Stop taking false oaths on your children. 2. Stop playing with the sentiments of Delhi's women, elders, and religious communities by making false promises. 3. Apologise to Delhiites for encouraging alcohol consumption," the BJP said.

He urged the AAP chief to publicly apologise for the "unpardonable crime of false assurances and corruption" in the name of cleaning the Yamuna and resolve not to associate with or accept donations from "anti-national forces" for political gains.

The Congress criticised both sides. Delhi Congress chief Devender Yadav said that if the BJP was distributing money to influence voters, and deleting names from the electoral rolls, then that was illegal and undemocratic, but added that the AAP chief should hold up a mirror to see the reflection of his own "misdeeds and unfulfilled promises".

Cong. campaign on Gandhiji, Ambedkar to kick off tomorrow

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh put a pause to the *Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan* rally of the Congress in Belagavi, Karnataka on December 27. But the party is ready with a template for 2025, seeking to merge the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar into a single narrative of social justice, a move that is both ambitious and challenging. Officially, the campaign will begin on Friday.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC), which met in Belagavi on December 26 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi presiding over the 39th session of the Congress in 1924, endorsed a month-long programme scheduled to end on January 26 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, the birthplace of Dr. Ambedkar.

"The CWC and the Congress are fiercely committed to protecting the Indian Constitution and the ideals of the Indian Independence Movement. Accordingly, the Indian National Congress will launch the *Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan Abhiyan*...commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Constitution coming into force and the founding of our Republic," the CWC resolution read.

"Between January 26, 2025 and January 26, 2026, the Congress will launch a massive, nationwide public outreach campaign called the *Samvidhan Bachao Rashtriya Padayatra* in which all leaders will participate. This padayatra will be from village to village, township to township in the form of a relay," the CWC said.

What started out as a campaign against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's off-the-cuff remark – that it has become a "fashion" to invoke Dr. Ambedkar – has now been framed as a strategy to locate the Congress's social justice politics around Gandhiji and Dr. Ambedkar.

The Opposition party's calculation seems to be twofold – blunt the recent attack by the BJP that the Congress has historically "insulted" Dr. Ambedkar and, second, not allow the ruling party to "appropriate" another leader of the Freedom Movement like it did with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge at the CWC meeting in Belagavi. P.K. BADIGER

"During the Freedom Struggle, the political narrative, represented by the Congress, took precedence over the radical narrative of social reform, then represented by Dr. Ambedkar. The Congress is now seeking to bring together the different strands of politics that once existed in opposition to each other," Kumar Sanjay, who teaches history in Swami Shraddhanand College of Delhi University, said.

Ambitious project

But the Congress's latest political project, combining the legacy of Dr. Ambedkar and Gandhiji into a single coherent narrative, is an ambitious one.

The differences between the two stalwarts, largely stemming from their understanding of the caste system and untouchability, are well documented.

Though scholars like Ramachandra Guha noted the common ground. "Gandhi and Ambedkar, working by contrasting methods and in opposition to one another, made Hindus recognise the evils and horrors of the system of Untouchability," he argued in an article published in *The Hindu* on July 18, 2004.

When Dr. Ambedkar demanded a separate electorate for Dalits and the British had agreed, Gandhiji went on a fast inside Yerawada jail, that eventually resulted in the Poona Pact of 1932 and Dr. Ambedkar had agreed to reserved constituencies instead of separate electorate.

Jailed Katra protesters released, L-G asks panel to initiate talks

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Eighteen protesters, who were jailed over the street agitation against the Katra ropeway at Mata Vaishno Devi temple in Reasi, were released on Wednesday, with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha mandating a committee to initiate talks with the stakeholders.

Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, said the panel would hold fresh talks with the stakeholders. "All the issues related to faith and the economy will be discussed," he said. Pilgrims welcomed the reopening of shops in Katra market.

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स ISRO PROPULSION COMPLEX
महेंद्रगिरि पी ओ MAHENDRAGIRI PO
तिरुनेलवेली जिला TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT- 627 133
तमिलनाडु TAMIL NADU
क्रय एवं भंडार प्रभाग PURCHASE & STORES DIVISION

1 अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित सूचना सं.: आईपीआरसी/ सीटीई/ आईसीईटी/ ई.ओ.आई.–01/2024-25
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest No.: IPRC/CTE/ICET/EoI-01/2024-25

सं.प्र.क्र.भ./आईपीआरसी/सीटीई/आईसीईटी/ई.ओ.आई.–01/2024-25 दिनांक : 24 दिसम्बर 2024
Ref.HPS/IPRC/CTE/ICET/EoI-01/2024-25 Date: 24th December 2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि, तमिलनाडु, भारत में अगली पीढ़ी के प्रमोचन यान (एनजीएलवी) परियोजना के एलओएक्स–मीथेन इंजनों के परीक्षण के लिए एकीकृत क्रायोजेनिक इंजन और चरण परीक्षण सुविधा (आईसीईटी) में तरल प्रणालियों में संवर्धन के लिए सक्षम विक्रेताओं से अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ई.ओ.आई.) आमंत्रित करते हैं।

For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites "Expression of Interest (EOI) from capable vendors for "Augmentation to Fluid Systems at Integrated Cryogenic Engine and Stage Test Facility (ICET) for Testing LOX-Methane Engines of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) Project" at IPRC, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, India.
ई.ओ.आई. (संलग्नक – 1, 2, 3 और 4) के साथ परियोजना का संक्षिप्त विषय इसरो वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। दिनांक 21.01.2025 को 10.00 बजे भा.मा.स. पर आईपीआरसी में एक संवाद बैठक आयोजित की जाएगी। इच्छुक विक्रेता सुरक्षा मंजूरी की व्यवस्था करने के लिए दिनांक 16.01.2025 से पूर्व संवाद बैठक में भाग लेने वाले प्रतिनिधियों का विवरण संपर्क बिन्दु को प्रदान करेंगे। ई.ओ.आई. प्रस्तुत करने के लिए संवाद बैठक में भाग लेना अनिवार्य नहीं है।

A brief scope of the Project along with EOI (Attachment -1, 2, 3 & 4) is available in ISRO website www.isro.gov.in. An Interaction meeting is arranged at IPRC on 21.01.2025 10.00 Hrs. IST. Interested Vendors shall provide the details of the representative (s) taking part in the interaction meeting well before 16.01.2025 to the Focal point in order to arrange Entry pass. Attending of interaction meeting is not an essential requirement for submitting EOI.
इच्छुक विक्रेता दस्तावेजों को डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं और विस्तृत ई.ओ.आई को नियत तिथि और समय अर्थात दिनांक 04.02.2025 (1600 बजे भा.मा.स.) को या उससे पूर्व सीलबंद लिफाफे में अधोहस्ताक्षरी को प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। अपना ई.ओ.आई. प्रस्तुत करते समय, लिफाफे पर उपर्युक्त उल्लिखित संदर्भ. स. और नियत तिथि लिखें।

Interested vendors may download the documents and submit detailed EOI to the undersigned on or before due date and time i.e. 04.02.2025 (16.00 Hrs. IST) in sealed cover. While submitting your EOI, super-scribe the above-mentioned Reference No. and due date on the envelope.
यदि सूचित की गई नियत तिथि को अवकाश घोषित किया जाता है, तो आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में अगला कार्य दिवस प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त करने और खोलने के लिए नियत तिथि के रुप में माना जाएगा। देर से/विलंबित प्रतिक्रियाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जाएंगी। नियत तिथि के विस्तार के लिए अनुरोध स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। प्रश्न स्पष्टीकरण, यदि कोई हो, तो क्रय और भंडार अधिकारी, क्रय समूह1, आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि पी.ओ., तिरुनेलवेली जिला – 627 133, तमिलनाडु, भारत (ई–मेल आईडी: psogroup1@iprc.gov.in) को लिखित रुप में संबोधित किया जा सकता है।

In the event the due date indicated is declared as holiday, the next working day at IPRC, Mahendragiri shall be considered as the due date for receiving & opening of responses. Late/delayed responses will not be accepted. No request for extension of due date shall be entertained. Queries, clarifications, if any, can be addressed in writing to Purchase & Stores Officer, PURGP1, IPRC, Mahendragiri P.O, Tirunelveli District- 627 133, Tamil Nadu, India (e-mail id: psogroup1@iprc.gov.in).
इस अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति के प्रकाशन के बाद जारी किया गया कोई भी शुद्धिपत्र हमारी वेबसाइट पर डाला जाएगा। आप नियमित रुप से साइट का अवलोकन कर सकते हैं।

Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Expression of Interest, will be hosted in our website. You may visit the site regularly.

2 अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित सूचना सं.: आईपीआरसी/ ईएसटीई/ एसआईईटी/ आईएमएस/ ई.ओ.आई.–03/2024-25
Notice Inviting Expression of Interest No.: IPRC/ESTE/SIET/IMS/EOI-03/2024-25

सं.प्र.क्र.भ./आईपीआरसी/ईएसटीई/एसआईईटी/आईएमएस/ई.ओ.आई.–03/2024-25 दिनांक : 24 दिसम्बर 2024
Ref.HPS/IPRC/ESTE/SIET/IMS/EOI-03/2024-25 Date: 24th December 2024

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, इसरो नोदन कॉम्प्लेक्स (आईपीआरसी), महेंद्रगिरि आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि, तमिलनाडु, भारत में एलओएक्स–मीथेन इंजन और अगली पीढ़ी के प्रमोचन यान (एमजीएलवी) के चरणों के परीक्षण के लिए सेमी–क्रायोजेनिक एकीकृत इंजन और चरण परीक्षण सुविधा में तरल सर्विसिंग प्रणाली की स्थापना के लिए सक्षम विक्रेताओं से अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ई.ओ.आई.) आमंत्रित करते हैं।

For and on behalf of the President of India, Head, Purchase & Stores, ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri invites "Expression of Interest (EOI) from capable vendors for "Establishment of Fluids Servicing System at Semi-Cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility for Testing of LOX-Methane Engines & Stages of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)" at IPRC, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu, India.
ई.ओ.आई. फॉर्म 1, 2 और 3 के साथ परियोजना का संक्षिप्त विषय क्षेत्र इसरो की वेबसाइट www.isro.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। दिनांक 20.01.2025 को 10.00 बजे भा.मा.स. पर आईपीआरसी में एक संवाद बैठक आयोजित की जाएगी। इच्छुक विक्रेताओं को प्रवेश पास की व्यवस्था करने के लिए दिनांक 16.01.2025 से पूर्व संपर्क बिन्दु को संवाद बैठक में भाग लेने वाले प्रतिनिधियों का ववरण प्रदान करेंगे। ई.ओ.आई. प्रस्तुत करने के लिए संवाद बैठक में भाग लेना अनिवार्य नहीं है।

A brief scope of the Project along with EOI – Form 1, 2 & 3 is available in ISRO website www.isro.gov.in. An Interaction meeting is arranged at IPRC on 20.01.2025 10.00 Hrs. IST. Interested Vendors shall provide the details of the representative (s) taking part in the interaction meeting well before 16.01.2025 to the Focal point in order to arrange Entry pass. Attending of interaction meeting is not an essential requirement for submitting EOI.
इच्छुक विक्रेता दस्तावेजों को डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं और विस्तृत ई.ओ.आई को नियत तिथि और समय अर्थात दिनांक 03.02.2025 (1600 बजे भा.मा.स.) को या उससे पूर्व सीलबंद लिफाफे में अधोहस्ताक्षरी को प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं। अपना ई.ओ.आई. प्रस्तुत करते समय, लिफाफे पर उपर्युक्त उल्लिखित संदर्भ. स. और नियत तिथि लिखें।

Interested vendors may download the documents and submit detailed EOI to the undersigned on or before due date and time i.e. 03.02.2025 (16.00 Hrs. IST) in sealed cover. While submitting your EOI, super-scribe the above-mentioned Reference No. and due date on the envelope.
यदि सूचित की गई नियत तिथि को अवकाश घोषित किया जाता है, तो आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि में अगला कार्य दिवस प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त करने और खोलने के लिए नियत तिथि के रुप में माना जाएगा। देर से/विलंबित प्रतिक्रियाएं स्वीकार नहीं की जाएंगी। नियत तिथि के विस्तार के लिए कोई अनुरोध स्वीकार नहीं किया जाएगा। प्रश्न स्पष्टीकरण, यदि कोई हो, तो क्रय और भंडार अधिकारी, क्रय समूह1, आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि पी.ओ., तिरुनेलवेली जिला – 627 133, तमिलनाडु, भारत (ई–मेल आईडी: psogroup1@iprc.gov.in) को लिखित रुप में संबोधित किया जा सकता है।

In the event the due date indicated is declared as holiday, the next working day at IPRC, Mahendragiri shall be considered as the due date for receiving & opening of responses. Late/delayed responses will not be accepted. No request for extension of due date shall be entertained. Queries, clarifications, if any, can be addressed in writing to Purchase & Stores Officer, PURGP1, IPRC, Mahendragiri P.O, Tirunelveli District- 627 133, Tamil Nadu, India (e-mail id: psogroup1@iprc.gov.in).
इस अभिरुचि की अभिव्यक्ति के प्रकाशन के बाद जारी किया गया कोई भी शुद्धिपत्र हमारी वेबसाइट पर डाला जाएगा। आप नियमित रुप से साइट का अवलोकन कर सकते हैं।

Corrigendum if any, issued after publication of this Expression of Interest, will be hosted in our website. You may visit the site regularly.

प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, आईपीआरसी, महेंद्रगिरि
Head, Purchase & Stores, IPRC, Mahendragiri
फोन सं. / Phone No: 04637-281549 / 04637-281460 / 04637-281599 / 04637-281552

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
SECOND DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP-II)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
(Single Stage – Two Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT
Name of Project : SECOND DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP– II)
Bid Invitation No. 4 / 2024-25 / BBC / Erode / Date.30.12.2024

CONTRACT TITLE:
1. Rehabilitation and Improvements of Lower Bhavani (Bhavanisagar) Dam in Sathyamangalam Taluk of Erode District Under DRIP-II (Civil, Electrical & Basic facilities) IBRD LOAN No. 9181 IN – AIIB LOAN NO. L00449A
2. Rehabilitation and Improvements of Lower Bhavani (Bhavanisagar) Dam in Sathyamangalam Taluk of Erode District Under DRIP -II (Hydro Mechanical Works) IBRD LOAN No. 9181 IN – AIIB LOAN NO. L00449A

1. Through the Government of India the **Government of Tamil Nadu has received finance** from the World Bank towards the cost of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement project (DRIP– II) and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through **National open Competitive Procurement** using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016. Revised August 2018, November 2020" ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/ Government of India, or State / Central Government Undertakings. Bidders from India, who are not registered as above, on the date of bidding, can also participate provided they get themselves registered by the time of contract signing, if they become successful bidders.
4. **On behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -638011, Tamil Nadu** now invites online Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation of works detailed below in the table. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I clause 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria) to qualify for the award of the contract. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of the "Procurement Regulations" setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. The Bidding documents are available online on **https://tntenders.gov.in** from **06.01.2025 10.00 Hours (IST) to 20.02.2025 14.00 Hours (IST)** for the works mentioned in the table. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the above same address. Bidding document shall be downloaded from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** at free of cost. Bidders will be required to register on the website. The bidders would be responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.
6. For submission of Bid the Bidders are required to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the certifying authorities authorized by Government of India and then register with the Government of Tamil Nadu e-Procurement platforms and submit Bids by using their user ID and Digital Signature. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and Password for participating in e-procurement in this project, may obtain the same from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**. Bids submitted in any other manner will not be accepted.
7. Bids comprise two parts, namely the Technical part and the Financial part, and both parts must be submitted simultaneously online on **https://tntenders.gov.in on or before up to 14.00 Hours (IST) on 20.02.2025 for the work mentioned in S.No.1 & 2 of the table, and the "Technical Part" of the bids will be opened on 21.02.2025 @14.30 Hours (IST) for the work in S.No.1 of the table and the work in S.No.2 will be opened on 21.02.2025 @16.00 Hours (IST) onwards,** in the presence of the bidders designated representatives who wish to attend. The "Financial Part" shall remain unopened in the e-Procurement system until second public Bid opening for the financial part. Any Bid or Modification to Bid (including Discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The electronic bidding system will not allow any late submission of bids.
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security for the amount specified for the works in the table below, drawn in favour of **The Executive Engineer, WRD., Bhavanisagar Dam Division, Bhavanisagar, Tamil Nadu payable at Sathyamangalam (in case of Demand Draft) (State Bank of India, Sathyamangalam Branch IFS Code No.SBIN0001498)**. Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document (as per ITB 19 of bidding document) and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 10.
9. Bids along with necessary enclosures must be uploaded to the website **https://tntenders.gov.in** as per bid document and Bids will be opened at the specified venue on the stipulated date and time, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives who wish to attend.
10. The bidders are required to submit **(a) original bid security (b) Power of attorney authorizing the signatory of the Bid and (c) original affidavit** regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document to The Superintending Engineer, WRD., Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -638011, Tamil Nadu before the bid submission deadline, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened.
11. **A Pre – bid meeting will be held on 27.01.2025 at 11.00 Hours (IST) for the work in S.No.1 & 2 of the table at the office of the Superintending Engineer, WRD., Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -638011, Tamil Nadu,** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of Instructions to Bidders of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre – bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
12. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.
13. The address for communication is as under:

a. Name & Designation of officer : **Er. J. Gopi, M.E.,Superintending Engineer, WRD.,**
b. Official Address : **O/o of the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Department, Bhavani Basin Circle, Treasury Building 3rd Floor, Collectorate Campus, Erode -638 011**
c. Email : **sewroerode@gmail.com**
d. Telephone : **0424-2255244**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs) (including GST)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of Completion
1	2	3	4	5
1	**Rehabilitation and Improvements of Lower Bhavani (Bhavanisagar) Dam in Sathyamangalam Taluk of Erode District under DRIP-II (Civil, Electrical & Basic Facilities) – IBRD loan No. 9181 IN-AIIB Loan No. L00449A**	**Rs. 1606.12**	**Rs. 32.20**	**18 Months (Including Rainy season)***
2	**Rehabilitation and Improvements of Lower Bhavani (Bhavanisagar) Dam in Sathyamangalam Taluk of Erode District under DRIP-II (Hydro Mechanical works) – IBRD loan No. 9181 IN-AIIB Loan No. L00449A**	**Rs. 194.55**	**Rs. 3.90**	**12 Months (Including Rainy season)***

*** The rainy season usually shall be of 3 months between October to December**

Superintending Engineer, WRD.,
Bhavani Basin Circle, Erode -638 011, Tamil Nadu.
PHONE No: 0424-2255244, Email ID: sewroerode@gmail.com

DIPR / **5721** / Tender / 2024

INBRIEF

Bhuvnesh Kumar takes charge as UIDAI CEO

Bhuvnesh Kumar took charge as the Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which administers Aadhaar, on Wednesday. Mr. Kumar, a 1995-batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, is an Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, a post he will continue to hold after this appointment. Mr. Kumar succeeds Amit Agrawal, a 1993-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, who was also MEITY Additional Secretary prior to his June 2023 appointment. Mr. Kumar has also served as a Joint Secretary at the Ministry.

Five persons die inside well in Jharkhand's Hazaribag

Five persons died in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, including four persons who tried to rescue a man from a well, the police said on Wednesday. The incident took place under Charhi police station limits when Sundar Karmali (27) entered a well to retrieve his bike, which he had pushed into it after a domestic dispute with his wife, Rupa Devi. "Karmali climbed down the well to retrieve his vehicle but did not return. Upon hearing Rupa's screams for help, four others attempted to rescue him, one after another, but all of them died inside the well," B.N. Prasad, the sub-divisional police officer of Bishnugarh said. PTI

'Excessive nitrates found in groundwater in 440 districts'

Report suggests that about 56% of India's districts face the problem largely due to subsidised synthetic nitrogenous fertilizer, a key input for farming; a level more than 45 mg per litre is high

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Excessive nitrates have been found in groundwater in 440 districts as of 2023, an increase from 359 such districts in 2017, a report by the Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) said on Wednesday. This is a health hazard, particularly for young children, and a source of environmental toxicity.

The data suggest that about 56% of India's districts have excessive nitrates – defined as more than 45 mg per litre – in groundwater, largely due to the use of subsidised synthetic nitrogenous fertilizer, a key input for farming.

Of the 15,239 groundwater samples collected from across the country for testing, 19.8% had nitrates or nitrogen compounds above the safe limits. This proportion has not shifted much since 2017. In the 13,028 samples analysed in 2017, 21.6% had excessive nitrates.

Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu reported the highest nitrate contamination problem, with 49%, 48%, and 37%, respectively, of their tested samples reporting numbers beyond the safe limit.

The Central Ground Water Board estimates that the stage of groundwater extraction is 60.4%, the same since 2009. FILE PHOTO

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat have a long-standing nitrate problem with relative levels fairly constant since 2017, the report says. However, regions in central and southern India are reporting an increasing trend, provoking worry.

"Maharashtra (35.74%), Telangana (27.48%), Andhra Pradesh (23.5%) and Madhya Pradesh (22.58%) also show notable levels of nitrate contamination, pointing towards growing concern in central and southern regions of India," the report notes.

The monsoon rain tends to increase nitrate levels, with 30.77% of samples contaminated in the pre-monsoon period compared with 32.66% after the rainy season.

Other major chemical contaminants affecting groundwater quality are fluoride and uranium. Fluoride concentrations exceeding the permissible limit are "a major concern" in Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Rajasthan and Punjab reported the highest number of samples with uranium concentration exceeding 100 ppb (parts per billion).

Anything over 30 ppb of uranium is considered unsafe and several of these samples were predominant in regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, where groundwater is being over-exploited, with more water being drawn out than is being replenished by rain or other means.

In an accompanying report on the availability of groundwater across India, the CGWB estimates that on the whole, the stage of groundwater extraction across the country is 60.4%, roughly the same as it has been since 2009, when measurements began biennially (and annually since 2022).

About 73% of the blocks analysed for groundwater levels are in the "safe" zone, meaning that they are replenished enough to compensate for the water drawn out.

This is a sharp rise from the 67.4% in 2022. However, there were 343 fewer blocks analysed for the 2024 assessment, compared to 2022.

School enrolment down by over a crore in 2023-24: report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Over the past four years, the enrolment number has hovered around 26 crore.

The total enrolment of students has dropped by over a crore in 2023-24 from that of the previous years, show the latest data released by the Education Ministry.

A total of 24.8 crore students enrolled in the academic year 2023-24, the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report released by the Ministry said. Over the past four years, the enrolment number has hovered around 26 crore.

Education officials have said in the report that the data show some real changes from the previous years as this exercise of maintaining a separate student base is unique and different and incomparable from that of 2021-22 or the previous years. The UDISE+ facilitates online uploading of data at the school level with inbuilt validation checks and the subsequent data verification at the block, district and State levels ensures data reliability and timely completion.

In 2018-19, the total enrolment of students in school was 26.02 crore, which increased in 2019-20 by 1.6% and crossed 26.45 crore, an increase of more than 42 lakh students. The enrolments slightly fell in 2020-21 as compared with 2019-20. In 2021-22, as compared with 2020-21, the total enrolment increased by 0.76%. Even according to data from back in 2012-13, the total enrolment was 26.3 crore.

In 2022-23, there was a drop in enrolment with 25.18 crore students being registered and there was a further fall in 2023-24 to 24.8 crore in the total enrolment, a drop of 6% (nearly 1.22 crore students) as compared with 2018-19.

In 2022-23, the Ministry started a revitalised UDISE+ ecosystem which captures data on more than 60 fields for each student and to maintain the uniqueness of the child, the Aadhaar details were also collected on a voluntary basis.

In the latest report, more than 19.7 crore students provided Aadhaar numbers by 2023-24 voluntarily, the report said.

Officials have stated that UDISE+ 2022-23 data is not strictly comparable with the previous reports on various educational indicators such as Gross Enrolment Ratio, Net Enrolment Ratio, dropout rates and so on. Since 2022-23, more efforts have been put in accurately establishing student and teacher credentials to weed out duplicate or ghost entries for specific identification of beneficiaries for various educational schemes.

Apart from Aadhaar, a separate unique educational ID (EID) for every student has been created in the UDISE+ portal to cover each and every child under the ecosystem of UDISE+, officials said.

"Through the creation of unique student and teacher identities, credentials of individuals students and teachers in the education ecosystem can be established more accurately leading to weeding out of duplicate or ghost entries resulting in precise identification of beneficiaries for benefit transfers of Samagra Shiksha scheme, PM POSHAN Scheme, National Scholarship scheme etc. (and) can bring significant savings to government in future years," the report said. While in 2018-19, 13.53 crore boys were enrolled, this saw a drop to 12.87 crore enrolments in 2023-24 a decrease of 4.87%, while enrolment of girls decreased from 12.49 crore in 2018-19 to 11.93 crore in 2023-24, a decrease of 4.48%.

States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra saw among the highest drop in enrolments. In 2018-19, Bihar reflected an enrolment of over 2.49 crore students which dropped to over 2.13 crore (a dip of over 35.65 lakh students) in the respective years UDISE+ report data. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh had shown enrolment of 4.44 crore students in 2018-19 which dropped by 28.26 lakh to 4.16 crore in latest data. Maharashtra recorded a decrease of 18.55 lakh students from over 2.32 crore to 2.13 crore in the latest report.

24-year-old man from U.P. kills mother, four younger sisters to 'save their honour'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Preliminary inquiry has revealed that he had taken the step because of domestic disputes, say police

The Lucknow police on Wednesday arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly murdering his mother and four sisters in a hotel in the city.

Soon after allegedly committing the crime in connivance with his father, the accused shot a video in which he said he had murdered them as he was helpless before the people of his locality and wanted to save the "honour" of the women.

Raveena Tyagi, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Lucknow, said the deceased had been identified as Alia, 9, Aksa, 16, Rahmeen, 18, and Alshia, 19, all sisters of Arshad, and his mother, Asma. She said that a preliminary inquiry had revealed that he had taken the step because of domestic disputes. "Forensic teams have been deployed at the crime spot to collect evidence while a detailed probe has been launched," she added.

In the video, Arshad, who hails from Agra, said that the *bastiwale* (people of his locality) had committed "unimaginable atrocities" on him and his family to snatch his house.

Because his house was taken away, he and his family were forced to run from pillar to post, he said. "I have the documents of the house, which my family wanted to donate to a temple and [then later] convert to Hinduism," he said.

In the video, he named some people and accused them of being the land mafia and women traffickers. He urged Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to take strict action against them.

"Their plan was to get me and my father arrested in a fake case and then sell my sisters in Hyderabad. We wanted to save their honour...," he said.

The neighbours of the accused, whose house is located in the Tedhi Bagiya locality in Agra, denied the claims.

"Both Mohammad Badr and his son Mohammad Arshad used to create a ruckus every now and then and have fought with almost every person in the area," said Fatima Begum, a neighbour.

Workshop on 'positive mind mastery' for students to be held online on Jan. 4 and 5

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A workshop on "positive mind mastery" will be organised by MiTran Global on January 4 and 5 for students aged 11 to 17 and their parents. *The Hindu in School* is the media partner.

In today's world, negativity and challenges can loom large in the lives of young people. Self-doubt, anxiety, and the pressure to succeed can overwhelm them. Studies show that a positive mindset leads to better academic performance, improved mental health, and a more fulfilling life. The immersive workshop will help students overcome challenges and offer insights to parents on how they can offer support. The workshop will focus on equipping both parents and teens with the skills needed to cultivate positivity, resilience, and goal-oriented behaviour. It will be held from 3.00 p.m. on January 4 and from 10.30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on January 5. Participants can choose any one slot. Parents must attend with their wards.

The workshop will discuss topics related to building accelerated learning methodologies, practical study strategies, handling peer pressure, negating digital influence, goal setting and visualisation, and affirmation.

Vidyashankar Guru, the co-founder and chief vision officer of MiTran Global, will conduct the workshop. He brings over two decades of experience in training students, teachers, and parents from 40 different nationalities.

The first 25 registered participants will receive a free eBook, *I Love Exams*, which will reinforce the principles discussed during the workshop and provide additional strategies to nurture potential.

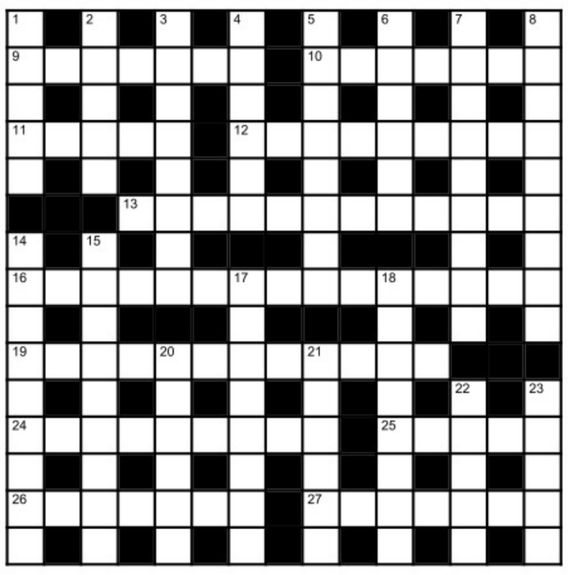
To register, visit hub.mitranglobal.com/services/pmmw or scan the QR code. For details, call 74832 62507 or email positivity-hub@mitranglobal.com

CROSSWORD + 14372

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 The spirit - film cut short after censor (7)
10 Learner wearing smiley embarrassingly, it indicates admission of oversight (5,2)
11 Moderate rent increase (3-2)
12 Honey, we never set out without valet at first (9)
13 Proverbially, union members do this without thinking... (5,2,5)
16 ...and feel sorry for a long time when they are free (6,2,7)
19 ...It's natural for people to make mistakes and perhaps ruin others name essentially (2,3,2,5)
24 He sells papers and latest books featuring Mahatma (9)
25 He comes back to endorse art world (5)
26 Resembling a slippery character, eleven occasionally go around to shoot revolutionary (3-4)
27 One in love affair primarily is working in communication channel (7)

Down

1 Fatal disease of middle ear part showing up (5)
2 Trouble brewing up for affiliates (5)
3 Clergyman takes drink at flat (8)
4 I am told old man's spring occasionally spouts hot water (6)
5 Ice on the ebb in the backdrop is unusual! (8)
6 Problem of girl ends with burning (6)
7 Amusing? My bad! It's a place for workout (9)
8 Extremely venturesome terrier, trained to find and fetch game for hunter (9)
14 One who stakes claim to the throne makes advance submission (9)
15 "Veronica, cigarette time" Spooner says (9)
17 Served Rwandese in distress (8)
18 It is likely that misplaced diary listed namesakes at the centre (1,4,3)
20 He works for band touring extremely around Rio with friends heartily (6)
21 Inconceivable. Couldn't start off miserably! (6)
22 Seize auditor's balance (5)
23 Country's cups and saucers (5)

SUDOKU

					6	2	4	5
		4				3		1
					2		8	
	3					1	9	6
	2						3	
8	6	9					5	
	1		4					
6		3				5		
9	4	7	3					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6388 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

U	N	G	I	F	T	E	D		B	A	S	K	E	T
N		R		I		R			M		N		U	
C	H	A	N	G	E	S		C	O	N	Q	U	E	R
R		N		U		A		L		I		C		N
O	L	D	E	R		T	H	E	W	O	R	K	S	
P		E		E		Z		A				L		
P	E	R	I	O	D		A	V	I	D	N	E	S	S
E				U		C		E		E				A
D	I	L	A	T	I	O	N		E	A	R	F	U	L
		E				P		S		T		E		M
	I	D	E	A	L	I	S	E		H	E	L	L	O
F		U		D		E		A		T		I		N
A	P	P	L	I	E	D		S	T	R	A	N	G	E
C		T		E				O		A		E		T
E	X	O	D	U	S		A	N	A	P	E	S	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	3	2	6	8	4	9	7	1
8	4	7	1	2	9	3	5	6
6	1	9	7	3	5	4	8	2
7	2	5	8	1	3	6	4	9
9	8	3	5	4	6	1	2	7
4	6	1	9	7	2	5	3	8
1	5	4	2	9	7	8	6	3
2	9	6	3	5	8	7	1	4
3	7	8	4	6	1	2	9	5

FAITH

Like the earth and seeds

Yudhishthira asks Bhishma which is more important – vidhi or effort, said P.T. Seshadri in a discourse. Bhishma replies that there was once a discussion between Brahma and Vasistha on the subject. Both vidhi and duty have their place in our lives, explains Bhishma. It is like the connection between seeds and the earth. The earth has been ploughed and manured, and is ready for cultivation. But if we do not sow seeds, can we get crops? We must continue to do our duties. We often make the mistake of thinking that because we have faced something terrible in our lives, everything else in future is going to turn out the same way.

Some problems that we now face are obviously due to some bad karma of ours. They are the results of something wrong that we did in a previous birth. But that does not mean that no matter what we do, we will always end up facing disaster. That is why jnanis tell us to disregard misfortune and good fortune, to never see anything in positive or negative terms, but to simply do our duties. Jatayu, the eagle, who gave up his life trying to save Sita, is an example of one who did his duty under the most trying circumstances. Ravana was carrying away Sita, who cried out to Jatayu to save Her. Ravana's might was well known. He was considered almost invincible. Yet, Jatayu did not think on these lines. He felt that it was far better to die than to witness such adharma. He tried to advise Ravana about the heinousness of what he was doing. And when that produced no result, he began to attack Ravana, and was cut down by the asura. Thus Jatayu went down fighting for dharma. He is a classic example of a person who did his duty, even if it meant giving up his life.

INBRIEF

Tata Consulting Engineers buys U.S.' CDI Engineering

Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE), a design, engineering and project management consultancy, acquired CDI Engineering Solutions (CDI), formerly Comprehensive Designers, Inc. (CDI), a U.S.-based design engineering firm, for an unspecified amount. "The addition of CDI significantly strengthens our ability to deliver impactful engineering solutions across industries and geographies," said Tata Consulting Engineers chairman L. Krishnakumar.

₹2000 notes worth ₹6,691 cr. yet to be returned: RBI data

The total value of ₹2000 banknotes in circulation, which stood at ₹3.56 lakh crore at the close of business on May 19, 2023, when the withdrawal of ₹2000 banknotes was announced, has declined to ₹6,691 crore at the close of business on December 31, 2024, as per updated data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). "Thus, 98.12% of the ₹2000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have since been returned," the RBI said on Wednesday.

Viacom18 Media is now a direct subsidiary of Reliance

Viacom18 Media has become a direct subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) following the conversion of over 24.61 crore compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS) into equity shares. Earlier, the firm was a material subsidiary of Network18 Media & Investments Ltd., a RIL subsidiary. RIL earlier held 70.49% stake on fully diluted basis. Post conversion, RIL holds 83.88% of Viacom18's total equity share capital. PTI

Maruti, Toyota lead Dec. auto sales

Passenger car market leader Maruti Suzuki sold a total of 1,78,248 units to dealers while Toyota Kirloskar despatched 29,529 units, reflecting a 30% and 29% uptick, respectively; Tata Motors' domestic sales rise 1% but is optimistic on passenger cars

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Japanese car firms Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) and Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM), who are in partnership, reported spectacular performance in December, registering wholesales growth of 30% and 29%, respectively.

Indian SUV maker Mahindra & Mahindra reported 16% year-on-year (YoY) growth in total sales while Tata Motors logged 1% rise. South Korea's Hyundai Motor India saw its wholesales drop 2.4% YoY.

Terra firma: Maruti Suzuki's wholesales registered a growth of 30% over December 2023. REUTERS

"We are observing a growing shift of consumer preferences towards vehicles offering sustainability, value proposition of dependability quotient, enhanced safety and better resale value which is boosting our sales," said Sabari Manohar, VP, sales-service-used car business, TKM.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. sold 69,768 units, including 41,424 SUVs. SUV sales grew 18% YoY the company said. Exports surged 70% to 3,092 units.

Tata Motors Ltd. reported total domestic sales of 76,599 units, up 1% YoY. This includes commercial vehicle sales of 33,875 units and passenger vehicle (PV) sales of 44,289 units.

"Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about the outlook for the PV industry. With multiple product launches, innovations and a strengthened multi-powertrain strategy, Tata Motors is well poised for further growth in CY2025," said Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility.

Honda Cars India said it sold a total of 9,460 units in December compared with 11,651 units a year ago

JSW MG Motor India logged YoY growth of 55%, with sales of 7,516 units.

Bank loan growth dropped for the fifth month in a row in November

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian banks' loan growth moderated for a fifth successive month in November, central bank data showed, as lenders continued to rein in unsecured and personal loans following the Reserve Bank of India's crackdown on "exuberant" lending.

Bank credit increased by 11.8% year-on-year last month, slower than the 16.5% rise in November 2023, excluding the impact of HDFC Bank's merger with its parent Housing Development Finance Corp, according to RBI data released late on Tuesday.

Including the impact of the merger, banks' loans grew 10.6% last month, compared with nearly 21% in the year-ago period.

The growth rate had slowed to 12.8% in October, excluding the merger, and to 11.5% including the merger. Loan growth had also moderated in July, August and September. Indian banks consistently reported double-digit loan growth for a while, helped by healthy retail demand and urban consumption.

Bad loan risk

However, in late 2023, the RBI, worried about the risk of bad loans, imposed higher capital requirements on personal loans and credit cards, which is now translating into slower growth in these segments.

Banks' personal loan growth slowed to 12.2% in November from 22.4% a year ago, excluding the HDFC Bank merger impact, while growth in outstanding credit-card debt dropped to 18.1% from 34.2% a year ago.

The RBI asked lenders to be watchful of a build-up in stress due to new lending models and flagged concerns about the interconnectedness between banks and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

Credit growth to the services sector decelerated to 14.4% in November from 22.2% a year ago. On the flip side, loans to industry grew by 8.1% year-on-year last month, quicker than the 5.5% growth last year.

Anil Ambani firm's Sasan Power repays $150 million

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sasan Power Ltd., a subsidiary of Reliance Power Ltd., said it has made a bullet payment of $150 million to IIFCL, U.K., fulfilling its debt obligation on December 31, 2024.

"This repayment will bolster Sasan Power's debt coverage metrics, improve liquidity, and enhance its credit rating," Reliance Power said in a filing.

Sasan Power operates a 3960 MW ultra mega power plant at Sasan in M.P. and has a captive coal mining capacity of 20 MTPA.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,507	0.47
US Dollar	85.64	0.00
Gold	79,390	0.56

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2554.85	26.20
Adani Ports	1218.70	-12.40
Apollo Hosp	7369.65	73.30
Asian Paints	2304.65	23.30
Axis Bank	1071.80	7.10
Bajaj Auto	8740.55	-58.05
Bajaj Finserv	1576.40	8.30
Bajaj Finance	6935.30	112.30
Bharat Elec	293.90	0.75
Bharti Airtel	1595.70	7.95
BPCL	295.30	2.85
Britannia Ind	4794.75	32.00
Cipla	1529.10	0.10
Coal India	386.40	2.25
Dr Reddys Lab	1369.00	-19.50
Eicher Motors	4885.30	63.40
Grasim Ind	2442.15	-0.55
HCL Tech	1911.95	-5.45
HDFC Bank	1782.75	9.90
HDFC Life	617.20	0.15
Hero MotoCorp	4184.35	23.75
Hindalco	592.95	-9.50
Hind Unilever	2322.10	-4.75
ICICI Bank	1283.65	2.00
IndusInd Bank	969.40	9.25
Infosys	1882.50	2.50
ITC	483.95	0.30
JSW Steel	905.45	3.95
Kotak Bank	1788.40	2.35
L&T	3667.50	59.85
M&M	3082.00	74.90
Maruti Suzuki	11208.30	349.90
NestleIndia	2169.25	-0.80
NTPC	333.65	0.30
ONGC	236.95	-2.30
PowerGrid Corp	310.40	1.70
Reliance Ind	1221.25	5.80
SBI Life	1400.40	10.00
State Bank	793.20	-1.75
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2918.65	29.50
Sun Pharma	1889.95	3.60
TataConsumerProduct	920.30	5.60
Tata Motors	749.25	9.10
Tata Steel	136.74	-1.31
TCS	4112.45	17.65
Tech Mahindra	1703.85	-2.35
Titan	3253.85	0.70
Trent Ltd.	7068.05	-55.30
UltraTech Cement	11447.00	20.65
Wipro	300.30	-1.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 01

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.45	85.77
Euro	88.45	88.81
British Pound	106.99	107.43
Japanese Yen (100)	54.36	54.59
Chinese Yuan	11.71	11.75
Swiss Franc	94.14	94.54
Singapore Dollar	62.55	62.85
Canadian Dollar	59.40	59.64
Malaysian Ringitt	19.09	19.18
Australian Dollar	52.87	53.08

Source:Indian Bank

Cabinet extends DAP special package, crop insurance to stay

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet extended the one-time special subsidy on fertilizer Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) at a rate of ₹3,500 per metric tonne from January 1, 2025 till further orders.

The Cabinet also approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26.

Briefing on the Cabinet decisions, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said the package for DAP will be over and above the approved nutrient-based subsidy and it will ensure the smooth availability of DAP to the farmers at affordable price.

The Centre is ensuring DAP availability at affordable prices, said Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Budgetary need

Mr. Vaishnav added that the tentative budgetary requirement for the special package on DAP would be approximately up to ₹3,850 crore.

"Inspite of geo-political constraints and volatility of global market conditions, the government kept its commitment towards farmer friendly approach by ensuring availability of DAP to farmers at affordable prices for Kharif and Rabi 2024-25," he said.

'New Year gift'

Union Minister Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, later told reporters at a press conference that the new year should bring happiness and prosperity in the lives of farmers.

The total allocation for the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme till 2025-26 is ₹69,515.71 crore, Mr. Chouhan said.

"The aim of this decision is to provide risk coverage to farmers against natural calamities. The Cabinet approved setting up of Fund for Innovation and Technology (FIAT) with an allocation of ₹824.77 crore for technology improvements in insurance schemes," he added.

Auto weather stations

He said the Weather Information and Network Data System (WINDS) for augmenting weather data through automatic weather stations will be implemented in 2024-25.

The Agriculture Minister said the Cabinet has also approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on trade of non-Basmati white rice between the Ministry of Cooperation of India and the Ministry of Trade of Indonesia. "This MoU is for trading of one million metric tonne of non-basmati white rice annually based on production and international prices," Mr. Chouhan explained.

भारत सरकार / Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
[वि.अ.आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित]
[Declared as Deemed to be University under Sec.3 of the UGC Act 1956]
वलियमला पोस्ट Valiamala PO, तिरुवनंतपुरम Thiruvananthapuram - 695 547
दूरभाष / Phone:0471-2568603, ई – मेल E-mail: recruitment@iist.ac.in

संविदा पदों के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन/
ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR CONTRACT POSITIONS

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईएसटी) निम्नलिखित संविदा पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) invites applications for following contract positions:

क्रम.सं. Sl. No.	संविदा पदों के नाम Name of the contract position	पदों की संख्या Number of the position
1	इंजीनियर (सिविल)/ Engineer (Civil)	03
2	इंजीनियर (विद्युत)/ Engineer (Electrical)	01

आवेदन पत्र ऑनलाइन भरने की सुविधा 02.01.2025 से 31.01.2025 तक उपलब्ध होगी।
Facility for online submission of application will be available from 02.01.2025 to 31.01.2025.
विस्तृत विज्ञापन और ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट देखें:
For detailed advertisement and submitting online application, please visit our website: https://www.iist.ac.in/career3.
विज्ञापन सं. Advt. No: IIST/ Admn/RMT/07/06/2024, dated 02.01.2025

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number(CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Web site : www.pspcl.in, (Contact Number 9646118754)

Tender Enquiry No. 329/HPs/ED-III/M-154 dt. 01.01.2025
Dy. CE / Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar,PSPCL, Patiala Invites E-Tender for MANUFACTURING, TESTING, SUPPLY AND ERECTION & COMMISSIONING OF 2 NOS. 20 MVA, 11/132 KV GENERATOR TRANSFORMERS FOR MUKERIAN HYDEL PROJECT, TALWARA, PUNJAB. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 03.01.2025 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C - 04/25 76155/12/3776/2023/40394

कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, टोंक
क्रमांकः निविदा/2024-25/1166 दिनांकः 24.12.2024
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना 04/2024-25
कार्यालय मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, टोंक की ओर से मानव संसाधन की सेवाओं के उपापन हेतु सक्षम आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से दर संविदा करने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र मय पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।
NIB Code: MHS2425A3043, UBIN No.: MHS2425SLRC04392
DIPR/C/13663/24 मुख्य चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी, टोंक

STATE HEALTH AGENCY (SHA KERALA)
5th and 8th Floor, Artech Meenakshi Plaza, Opp. Govt. W & C Hospital, Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram, 695 014,
E mail- statehealthagencykerala@gmail.com
web: www.sha.kerala.gov.in, Ph. No. 0471 4063121
Tender id : 2024_SHA_704598_2
e- Tender Notice
Online Bids are invited from Eligible Third-Party Administrations/ Implementation's support Agencies (Licensed with IRDAI) for implementation of **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (AB PM- JAY KASP)** in Public Hospitals. For details on e-Bids submission and tender document, visit the e-procurement portal **(https://etenders.kerala.gov.in)** and SHA's official website **(www.sha.kerala.gov.in).** Last date for submission of the completed e-bid documents: **16.01.2025** (up to 16.00 Hrs.)
Date: 01-01-2025 Sd/-
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR GAP ASSESSMENT AGAINST DPDP (DIGITAL PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION) ACT 2023
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5751932 DATED: 26.12.2024
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai – 600 002
Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:
GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL- ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR STRENGTHENING RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK OF THE BANK
BID NO: GEM/2024/B/5748378 DATED: 24.12.2024
The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites www.iob.in & www.gem.gov.in For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website www.gem.gov.in

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Office: Engineer-in-Chief / P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana.)
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in,
(Contact No 96461-61158)
Tender Enquiry No. 14/CE/P&M/2024-25
EIC/ P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Manufacturing, Testing, Supply & Delivery of 657 no. 11KV CTs of various types of ratio 400-200/5-5A suitable for use in 11 KV outgoing panels installed at various substations of PSPCL. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.01.2025 from 11:00 hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C - 01/25 76155/12/3772/2023/40389

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Nature of work	Due date
242513 005346	Design, Manufacture, Testing and Supply of 690 V AC VFD Panels along with Motors for TNPL Unit - I.	18.01.2025
242513 005440	Procurement of Pigment Dyes (Violet & Blue) for Paper Machine #1, 2 & 3.	17.01.2025
242513 005441	Procurement of DAF Chemicals for De-Inking Plant: a) Flocculant Anionic b) Flocculant Cationic c) Coagulant - Strong Cationic	17.01.2025
242523 003306	Supply of 11kV High Voltage Motors for TM#5 in TNPL Unit - II.	24.01.2025
242523 003358	Latex 1 (Top Coat - Acrylic Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	17.01.2025
242523 003359	Latex 2 (Pre Coat - SBR Binder) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	17.01.2025
242523 003360	AKD (Alkyl Ketene Dimer Size) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	17.01.2025
Email	242513005346 ; 242523003306 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in 242513005440 ; 5441 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 242523003358 ; 3359 ; 3360 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/5730/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HINDU RELIGIOUS CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS
ARULMIGU SUBRAMANIYA SWAMY TEMPLE, TIRUTTANI
THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT
e-TENDER NOTICE
FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM – TWO COVER SYSTEM
(Pre-Qualification and Price Tender)
R.CNo.341/2024/E3/Dated:30.12.2024
The Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer, Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple, Tiruttani, Taluk, Tiruvallur district is inviting e-tenders (Two cover system) from registered, live, class of qualified contractors of Tamilnadu Government Departments / State Government undertakings / through Official Tendering Website **(https://tntenders.gov.in)** of Tamil Nadu Government. Important details, bidding document and revision if any obtained only from website **https://tntenders.gov.in**

Sl. No	Name of work	Tender value Rs. Lakh	EMD Amount Rs	Period of work
1	Master Plan Providing Complete amenities to the devotees to Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Thirukoil, Tiruttanigai (Phase I)	9695.00	48,58,000/-	18 Months

Eligible Class of Contractor	:	Registered, live, 1st class of qualified contractors of Tamilnadu Government Departments/State Government undertakings
Earnest Money Deposit and cost of tender documents to be credited by way of demand draft in favour of	:	Joint Commissioner / Executive officer Arulmigu Subramaniya swamy Temple Tiruttani. (Through Online only)

1. e – Tender documents can be downloaded at free of cost from – **09.01.2025 to 12.02.2025 upto 5.00 pm.**
2. e – Tender documents will be uploaded upto – **13.02.2025 upto 1.00 pm.**
3. e – Tender (Pre qualification) Opening date and time – **13.02.2025 at 04.00 pm.**

K.Ramani B.A.B.L., Joint Commissioner / Executive officer
S.Sridharan Chairman Board of Trust
Members of Trustees G.Usharavi, G.Mohanan, V.SureshBabu, M.Nagan
DIPR/ 5738 /TENDER/2024

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E- Tender Notice
O/o the Executive Engineer, P M U, Electrical Circle, Manjeri, Malappuram
E Tender ID: No.2024_KSEB_716193_1, PAC: Rs. 2,92,04,148/-
Last Date: 06.01.2025, 05.00 pm
O/o the Chief Engineer (Generation), Moolamattom, Idukki
E Tender ID: No.2024_KSEB_719341_1, PAC: Rs. 24,34,00,000/-
Last Date: 31.01.2025, 04.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E536/E-tender/2025

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) invites online tender, for the following work:
Tender No. 1) T24P111733: Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 01 No. 400kV, 125MVAR Shunt Reactor alongwith all accessories and associated equipments at 400kV Sub-Station Tikri Kalan(Mundka) on turnkey basis.
2) T24P111692: Design, Supply, Errection, Testing & Commissioning of 07 no. of 400/200/33kv, 500 MVA Power Transformer at 400 kV Sub-Stations of DTL on turnkey basis (400kV Sub-Stations Bawana, Bamnauli and Tikri-Kalan).
3) T24P090632: Augmentation of 20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers with 31.5 MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformers along with 11kV switch gear panel board and associated civil works at various 220kV Sub Stations in Delhi Transco Limited on Turnkey basis.
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID **No. 2024_DTL_267559_1)**, Tender ID **No. 2024_DTL_267546_1)** and Tender ID **No. 2024_DTL_267556_1)** website www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. **DTL-9456-301224,** Unique No. **DTL-9457-301224** Unique No. **DTL-9458-311224** respectively.
Last date for bid submission: **18.02.2025 at 1:30 PM, 17.02.2025 at 1:30 PM and 19.02.2025 at 1:30 PM respectively.**
All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/Date of Extension/ Clarifications, if any, to the above e-tenders would appear only on the above mentioned websites.

ABIDJAN

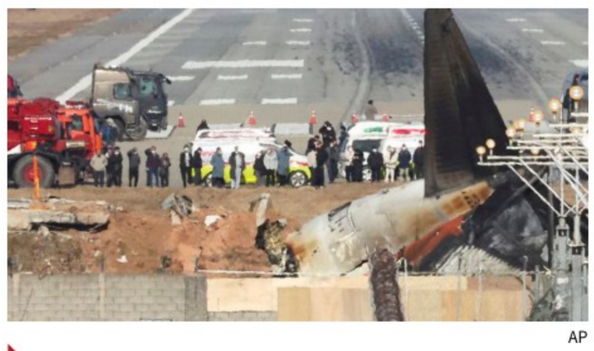
French forces to withdraw this month, says Ivory Coast President

AFP

Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara on Tuesday announced the withdrawal of French troops in January 2025, marking a significant reduction in military ties with the former colonial power. This decision reflects a broader trend in West Africa, where countries like Mali and Burkina Faso have also expelled French forces. AFP

SEOUL

Black box data extracted in South Korea plane crash investigation



AP

Grieving relatives of the South Korea plane crash victims visited the site on New Year's Day to pay their respects. Officials confirmed that data from one black box has been extracted as part of the investigation into the crash, which killed 179 of the 181 people on board the Jeju Air Boeing 737-800. AP

TAIPEI

Taiwan President vows to boost the island's defence Budget

AFP

In his New Year's address, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te emphasised the need to bolster Taiwan's defences against increasing Chinese threats, asserting that Taiwan is vital to global democracy. He called for a stronger defence Budget to ensure security, urging all citizens to protect Taiwan's democracy. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. begins its two-year tenure as non-permanent member of UNSC

Pakistan has commenced its two-year term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday, with Ambassador Munir Akram saying that Pakistan will adopt an "active and constructive" approach to tackle global challenges. The country was elected with 182 votes. PTI

Newborns in Gaza dying from winter cold: medics

Residents face shortages of food, fuel, and medicine, with the UN warning of an imminent collapse of the healthcare system; seven children died from the cold within the span of a week

Agence France-Presse
DEIR AL-BALAH

Yahya al-Batran clutched the tiny clothes of his dead newborn son Jumaa, just days after the baby died from the cold in their tent in war-torn Gaza.

"We are watching our children die before our eyes," said the 44-year-old.

Their baby was one of the seven children who died from the cold within the span of a week, the Hamas-run territory's Health Ministry said on Monday.

"We fled the bombing from Beit Lahia, only for them to die from the cold here?" said the child's mother Noura al-Batran, referring to their hometown in northern Gaza.

Frozen hands: Yahia al-Batran grieves as he holds the body of his 20-day-old son Jumaa who died from hypothermia. AP

The 38-year-old is still recovering from giving birth prematurely to Jumaa and his surviving twin brother, Ali, who is being treated in an intensive care unit at a hospital in southern Gaza.

Like hundreds of others now living in a date palm orchard, they have struggled to keep warm and dry amid heavy rain and temperatures that have dropped as low as eight degrees Celsius.

Like thousands of other families enduring dire conditions, they face shortages of food, fuel, and medicine, with the UN warning of an imminent collapse of the healthcare system.

In southern Gaza's Khan Yunis, Mahmoud al-Fasih said he found his infant daughter, Seela, "frozen from the cold" in their small tent near al-Mawasi beach, where they were displaced from Gaza City.

He rushed her to the hospital in the area that Israel has designated a "humanitarian zone", but she was already dead.

Israeli strikes kill 12 in Gaza as war grinds into New Year

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli air strikes in the Gaza Strip killed at least 12 Palestinians, mostly women and children, officials said on Wednesday, as the nearly 15-month conflict continued into the new year.

One strike hit a home in Jabaliya, killing seven, while additional strikes in Bureij and Khan Younis resulted in more casualties.

Since the war began on October 7, 2023, over 45,000 Palestinians have died, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Israeli military claims it targets militants but acknowledges civilian deaths due to Hamas operating in residential areas. Efforts for a ceasefire have stalled amid ongoing violence.

'Bangladesh saw a surge in mob killings last year'

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Mob killings in Bangladesh surged after the August protests last year that toppled the rule of ex-leader Sheikh Hasina, three rights groups said on Wednesday.

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), a leading Bangladeshi human rights organisation, said it had recorded at least 128 people killed by mobs in 2024.

Of those, 96 took place from August onwards – meaning roughly three-quarters of the killings occurred after Ms. Hasina left the country.

"Lynchings and mob beatings reflect the growing intolerance and radicalism in society," said senior ASK member Abu Ahmed Faijul Kabir.

Two other human rights organisations reported similar numbers – around three times more than the average of the previous five years.

Protesters during a rally in Dhaka in August 2024. AFP

The Manabadhikar Songskriti Foundation said it had documented 146 people killed by mobs in 2024, while the Human Rights Support Society recorded 173 deaths.

While the reasons for the mob killings were not given, revenge attacks surged after Ms. Hasina's fall, targeting members of her former ruling Awami League party.

Beauty Ara described how her husband Abdullah Al Masud – a former leader of the student wing of Ms. Hasina's Awami League – was beaten to death on September 7. "I had just given birth, but I rushed to the morgue to see my husband," Ms. Ara said.

Masud had already been beaten in a previous attack, when he lost a leg. "We filed a police case, but there has been no progress so far," Ms. Ara added.

ASK also said it had recorded 21 extrajudicial killings in 2024 – a trademark tactic used by security forces during Ms. Hasina's leadership, when hundreds of her political opponents disappeared.

Twelve killings happened after Ms. Hasina was deposed.

Saudi Arabia starts humanitarian 'air bridge' to assist Syria

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia on Wednesday launched a humanitarian air bridge to Syria, delivering food, shelter and medical supplies, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

The air bridge, established by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief), aims to "alleviate the effects of the difficult conditions currently facing the Syrian people", SPA said. The air bridge operates by sending cargo planes directly from King Khalid International Airport to Damascus, Syria, carrying vital supplies needed by the population.

Others, including the European Union and Ukraine, have also announced aid for Syria, where the United Nations said seven out of 10 people need support.

Riyadh's air bridge will "be followed by a land bridge later," said Abdullah al-Rabeeah, the head of KSrelief, SPA reported.

Bangladesh Army chief calls for national consensus, tones down anti-India rhetoric

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh needs to build an environment that will allow reconciliation among various stakeholders of the nation, Army chief General Waker-uz-Zaman has said. In an interview with *Prothom Alo* daily, he made several critical observations on the policing failures of the current interim administration, and said India and Bangladesh were dependent on each other on many fronts and, therefore, both should remain mindful of this reality while taking decisions.

"We want a peaceful environment. Peace and stability is very important now for Bangladesh's economy and social development. Without these two factors, there can be no development or good governance. That is why we need to restore tolerance among ourselves. An environment of national consensus must be created," Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman said, touching upon some of the critical issues in the country.

The situation escalated on December 31, 2024, when student activists sought to abolish the 1972 Constitution, prompting backlash even from Opposition leaders like Mirza Abbas, who labelled such calls as "fascist".

General Waker-uz-Zaman

Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman also cooled down the heated anti-India rhetoric that was heard in the student-led "unity rally" of December 31. "India is an important neighbour [of Bangladesh]. We are dependent on India in many ways," he said.

Gen. Waker-uz-Zaman pledged full support to the interim government led by Chief Adviser Mohammad Yunus but, significantly, declared explicitly that the restoration of institutions in the country would depend on a politically empowered government.

S. Korea's presidential aides offer to resign amid political crisis

Reuters
SEOUL

Senior aides to South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol offered to resign en masse on Wednesday, a day after his office expressed regret over acting President Choi Sang-mok's approval of two new judges to a court set to decide Mr. Yoon's fate.

Mr. Yoon's chief of staff, policy chief, national security adviser and special adviser on foreign affairs and security, as well as all other senior secretaries, tendered their resignation, his office said in a statement, without elaborating.

Mr. Choi said he would not accept their resignation as the priority now was to focus on improving the economy and stabilising state affairs, his office said. The aides had repeatedly expressed their intent to step down in the wake of Mr. Yoon's botched attempt to declare martial law, but their resignations have not been accepted, said a presidential official.

Sport

U.S. powers into last four; Zverev injured as holder Germany exits

On the ball: Fritz was in top form against Zhizhen. AP

UNITED CUP

Agence France-Presse
PERTH

Coco Gauff and Taylor Fritz powered the U.S., tournament winner two years ago, into the semifinals of the United Cup mixed team event on Wednesday.

In the first singles match, Gauff got the ball rolling for her team with a gritty 7-6(4), 6-2 win over Zhang Shuai. Fritz then made sure of victory by edging a tight contest with Zhang Zhizhen 6-4, 6-4.

World No. 3-ranked Gauff said: "Shuai was playing amazing tennis out there. I was literally on the ground for most of the match. The harder I hit, the harder she was hitting.

"I felt like I couldn't get her on defence. She was playing so aggressive, I felt like I had to go more on my second serves, which brought in more double faults. But if I just put it in, it was a return winner, so I had to take my chances."

Kazakhstan advances

Kazakhstan also advanced to the semifinals with a 2-1 win over a Germany team playing without the injured world No. 2-ranked Alexander Zverev.

Zverev was a late scratch for Germany due to a biceps injury.

He was scheduled to face Alexander Shevchenko but withdrew at the last minute with Kazakhstan leading the tie 1-0 after Elena Rybakina beat Laura Siegemund 6-3, 6-1.

Shevchenko beat Zverev's replacement, Daniel Masur, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-2 to clinch the tie for Kazakhstan while Zverev watched from the sidelines. Germany then won the mixed doubles.

Swiatek doubles up

In Sydney, Iga Swiatek and Hubert Hurkacz won their deciding mixed doubles match over the Czech Republic to take Poland into the quarterfinals.

World No. 2 Swiatek and Hurkacz beat Tomas Machac and Karolína Muchova 7-6(3), 6-3 at the Ken Rosewall Arena. The Polish team led 5-2 before allowing the Czechs back into the first set.

In singles, Machac gave the Czech Republic the lead with a 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 win over Hurkacz before Swiatek evened the tie with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Muchova.

Katie Boulter's 6-2, 6-1 win over Olivia Gadecki of Australia helped Britain clinch a quarterfinal spot.

Boulter went into the match in the knowledge that a straight-sets victory would ensure Britain's progress to the last eight as Group F winner.

Win not enough for Oz

Alex de Minaur, who is engaged to Boulter, drew the host level with a 6-2, 6-1 triumph over Billy Harris before combining with Gadecki to defeat Charles Broom and Olivia Nicholls 6-3, 7-6(3) in mixed doubles.

Australia's 2-1 victory, though, was not enough to help it reach the last eight.

Italy had earlier won Group D to make it to the quarterfinals.

Sahaja enters second round

Sports Bureau

Sahaja Yamalapalli beat Kamonwan Yodpetch of Thailand 6-3, 6-4 to move into the second round of the $60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Wednesday.

The results: First round: $60,000 ITF women, Nonthaburi, Thailand: Jia-Jing Lu (Chn) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 3-6, 6-4, 6-2; Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Kamonwan Yodpetch (Tha) 6-3, 6-4.

$30,000 ITF women, Nairobi, Kenya: Yashaswini Panwar bt Sonia Tuyishime (Rwa) 6-0, 6-0; Angella Okutoyi (Ken) bt Priyanshi Bhandari 6-1, 6-0; Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Cynthia Wanjala (Ken) 6-3, 6-3; Gabriella Mikaul (USA) bt Laalitya Kalluri 6-2, 6-2; Lexue Xiao (Chn) bt Vanshita Pathania 2-6, 6-3, 7-6(8).

TOP OF THE CHARTS

Bumrah registers record by an Indian bowler in ICC rankings

AFP

Premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah on Wednesday bettered the all-time rating-point record by an Indian in the latest ICC rankings when he touched the 907-point mark. He jointly held the record with R. Ashwin. Ashwin's highest rating was 904, achieved in 2016. Bumrah had drawn level with Ashwin ahead of the Boxing Day Test.

IMPETUS

Konstas has brought momentum and intensity, says Carey

AFP

Alex Carey said on Wednesday that he was mesmerised by the way Sam Konstas scored an audacious half-century in the Boxing Day Test. "We'll see how he plays out here (Sydney)... to be able to throw a few punches early and get a bit of momentum for us, the opening partnership was probably just lacking that intensity."

HIGH PRAISE

Australian PM Albanese hails Bumrah's superb show

X@ALBOMP

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Wednesday interacted with the Indian and Australian cricket teams ahead of the fifth Test and effusively praised Jasprit Bumrah for his exploits in the Border Gavaskar Trophy. According to the local media, Albanese acknowledged Bumrah's superb performance in the series.

END OF THE ROAD

Djokovic-Kyrgios pair flatters to deceive, loses in second round

AFP

The new doubles team of Novak Djokovic and Nick Kyrgios bowed out of the Brisbane International in the second round. The pair, granted a wild-card entry by tournament organisers, lost 2-6, 6-3, [8-10] on Wednesday to the top-seeded combination of Nikola Mektic of Croatia and New Zealand's Michael Venus.

One-man army Bumrah at his menacing best Down Under

The pace spearhead has 30 scalps from just four Tests in the ongoing series and what makes his performance even more special is the absence of regular partner Shami; Siraj has slowly found his rhythm while Akash has tried hard without luck

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
SYDNEY

A slow walk gathering pace, legs suddenly whirring while approaching the bowling crease, back arching and the ball being released as if from a high-strung catapult. This is the signature Jasprit Bumrah style, almost similar to the manner in which aeroplanes gently roll before munching tarmac in the blink of an eye and being airborne.

In the latest Border-Gavaskar Trophy series, Bumrah has been at his menacing best. Stumps have been disturbed, edges grazed and such is his impact that even a delivery that may not necessarily demand a wicket would still yield one as batters rushed their shots.

There was theatre when Shane Warne bowled; an equally dramatic rush happens when Bumrah is at work. Great players impose their will on contests. Kapil Dev during India's 1991-92 tour Down Under bagged 25 wickets. Thirty two years later, another Indian fast bowler has 30 scalps from just four Tests while the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) awaits the fifth Test here from Friday.

Kapil's was the late wind that lit up a stunning career in its twilight. For Bumrah, aged 31 and with 44 Tests under his belt, this is the middle stage, and his current tally of 203 wickets in cricket's longer format is bound to quadruple. To bag 200 plus with an average of 19.42 is spectacular. He is the first bowler to get to this milestone while the average stayed below the 20 mark.

Prior to Rohit Sharma's return as captain at Adelaide, Bumrah led India well in the triumphant first Test at Perth. While the subsequent contests witnessed Australia's comeback and a series scoreline of 2-1 now favours the host, Bumrah has remained undaunted. Even as a tailender, he has put a price on his wicket.

Fast and furious: Bumrah has been simply sensational in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. AFP

Rare show of emotion

After castling Sam Konstas in Australia's second dig at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the speed merchant mimicked the opener's crowd-rousing gestures. It was a rare hint of raw emotion. When Nathan Lyon suffered a similar outcome, the timber-dismantler just stood and held a cold gaze.

This was the hero in a Wild Western, gunning down rivals with a phlegmatic air. After going through the 'Bumrah inquisition' on the pitch, every Australian batter has been subjected to the 'Bumrah question' in press conferences. Their usual responses reflected shock and awe.

It is not easy to perform consistently while his regular partner Mohammed Shami is yet to resurface at the international level following injury and rehabilitation. The other Mohammed, Siraj, has slowly found a rhythm to gain 16 wickets. Akash Deep, meanwhile, has strived hard without luck.

All this meant that Rohit was often employing Bumrah in repetitive spells. The 'shock' bowler was now doubling up as a stock bowler, and it is a workload that the Indian captain is conscious about. When India strides out at the SCG, Bumrah is expected to replicate his excellence. It would be ideal if the batters too can contribute.

Readers of a certain vintage may remember a Sachin Tendulkar hundred being the lone balm while India lost. Now the roles are reversed. A Bumrah five-for is taken for granted even as the team slumps toward defeat's shadow. He needs support from the rest of the playing eleven. Even then he will do all the heavy-lifting. Bumrah knows no other way.

Carlsen, Nepomniachtchi share World blitz title; Vaishali clinches bronze

CHESS

Sports Bureau

The World blitz championship ended on a bizarre note in New York. Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi decided to share the title, with the approval from the world chess governing body FIDE.

What if the regulations may not have quite allowed that.

Proud moment: Vaishali, right, with the other medallists. FIDE

Nothing to separate: Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi were declared joint winners in a first. FIDE

Tied

The final was still tied after three games in the sudden death when Carlsen proposed to Nepomniachtchi that the title be shared. Before the tie-breaks, the defending champion had taken a 2-0 lead but his Russian rival fought back to win the next two.

After the match, Carlsen reasoned: "At that point, we had already played for a very long time. I was very happy to end it. I thought at that point it would have been very, very cruel on both of us if one came first and another second. That's why I thought it was a reasonable solution."

The women, however, were in no mood to share the title, even though both the finalists were from one country – China. Ju Wenjun, the defending World classical champion, added the blitz title to her collection after beating Lei Tingjie in the tie-breaks.

The women's event also gave India something to cheer about, as R. Vaishali clinched the bronze medal. She was beaten by Ju in the semifinals.

This was the second medal for India in New York.

Koneru Humpy had won the women's World rapid title on Sunday.

McGrath lauds Bumrah's ability to adapt

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Jasprit Bumrah's incredible show has prevented the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series from becoming completely lopsided in Australia's favour, said pace great Glenn McGrath, lauding the India spearhead for his control and ability to adapt quickly. "He has been a massive part of the Indian team and without him, the series might have been more one-sided and what he does is special," said McGrath on the sidelines of his foundation's cancer awareness event here.

"Terrific young guy who has found a way to adapt. Absolutely incredible how he powers into bowl the last few steps," McGrath said of Bumrah's short run-up.

The man with 563 Test wickets also found similarities between him and the Indian in terms of hyperextension of their arms (when the elbow joint bends backward beyond its normal range). He said it allows them to land the ball a few inches further.

Team management and training are the franchises' prerogative, feels Ikram

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

International Hockey Federation (FIH) President Tayyab Ikram has made it clear that while the window for the Hockey India League was fixed, the exact dates were up to Hockey India and the franchises.

Many overseas players had cited it clashing with Christmas as reason for pulling out.

"How the franchises plan their training and team management is their prerogative. We have no problem with when it starts – December 28 or January 1 – so long as it is in the exclusive window," Ikram said here on Wednesday.

"HIL is close to my heart because it is for the athletes. Globally, we need more platforms that provide athletes with opportunities to perform and receive the recognition they deserve. I believe this is great for global hockey. The HIL coming back is a great first step and I am sure the rest of the world will also come soon. It's an annual event and I have already started seeing some interest, it is not far that the response of all the countries will be more positive," he added.

Ikram. FILE PHOTO

> We are launching the Pro League Connect so that all hockey nations engage with it

Ikram also refuted FIH launching a Pakistan-specific project to revive hockey.

Surprised

"Even I was surprised. What I had said in answer to a question was that the FIH was open to help all nations who wish to revive or develop hockey the way it did with India 14-15 years ago.

"It can be Korea, Malaysia, Japan, South Africa, Canada, even the USA. But there has to be equal participation, commitment and investment from the respective national associations and India is the best possible example," he declared.

Elaborating on his plans to spread top-tier hockey to more countries, Ikram said, "Earlier we had top-8-10 countries playing major tournaments but there was nothing for teams below that. Now we have the Nations Cup that targets eight teams after top-10 and the Nations Cup 2 with the next eight teams. I eventually want about 35 teams playing top hockey in some way or the other.

"As for the Pro League, yes we have a lot to do to make it as perfect as we had wanted and we need to engage more. Which is why we are launching the Pro League Connect so that all hockey nations engage with it."

Bengal Tigers find a way past Gonasika, record second victory of the season

HIL

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

The rub of the green went Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers' way as it registered its second win in as many games with a 2-1 victory over Team Gonasika at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Wednesday.

For a game that was as evenly matched as possible, one moment of defensive error led to a penalty stroke for SRBT, proving to be the difference between the two sides.

For the remaining part, there was little to choose from between the two, matched in their attempts at goal, circle entries and even scoring their respective opening goals within 30 seconds of each other.

It was a tactical game that saw both outfits play strategically, resulting in most of the work being done between the two 23-yard lines. For SRBT, Sukhjeet Singh and Abhishek were the key men with repeated incursions into the circle and Affan Yousuf backing them up, only to find their shots blocked by goalkeeper Oliver Payne.

Roaring success: Rupinder's double sealed it for Tigers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SRBT did earn enough penalty corners, however, it had to wait till the sixth one for Rupinder Pal Singh to finally step into the action – Jugraj Singh was entrusted with the responsibility till then but was unable to beat Payne – and the veteran made no qualms in smashing into the net past Payne's shoulders for the opening goal.

For Gonasika, it was Manpreet Singh, along with Frenchman Victor Charlet, who was the beating heart, controlling every aspect and running relentlessly to attack, create and defend.

It was no surprise that the former India captain got his name on the scoresheet as well, swinging to smash into the board, unmarked on the left after being put through by Struan Walker.

That should have opened up the game but the teams went back to possession play and it looked like yet another HIL match would go into shootouts. However, a 48th minute blunder saw SRBT rewarded with the stroke that Rupinder calmly converted.

Gonasika, faced with the prospect of another loss, finally stepped up the tempo and tried to find an equaliser but the rushing inside the circle saw the side falter at the finish with wayward shots, eventually ending on the losing side.

The result: SRBT 2 (Rupinder Pal Singh 31, 48) bt Team Gonasika 1 (Manpreet Singh 32).

INBRIEF

Chebet caps stellar 2024 with 5km world record

The 5000m and 10,000m Olympic champion Beatrice Chebet smashed the women's 5km world record with a time of 13 minutes 54 seconds at the Cursa dels Nassos road race in Barcelona on Tuesday as she finished a blockbuster year on a high. The Kenyan beat her previous record – set a year ago to the day at the Barcelona race – by 19 seconds, becoming the first woman to break the 14-minute barrier in the event.

Barca failed to meet Financial Fair Play rules: Spanish league

The Spanish league said on Tuesday that Barcelona has failed to meet Financial Fair Play rules in the latest blow to the club's hopes of keeping Dani Olmo. The league said Barcelona "did not present any alternative" on adhering to the regulations, which was required for the club to "register any player beginning on Jan.2".

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Hockey: HIL, DD Sports, Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.15 p.m.

Australia vs India: 5th Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 a.m. (Friday)

Batters in focus as the Proteas eye clean sweep

The visitor, on the other hand, will seek to improve its track record in the 'Rainbow Nation' as it looks to breach South Africa's fortress

PAK IN SA

Reuters
CAPE TOWN

South Africa has already sealed its place in this year's World Test Championship (WTC) final ahead of the second and final Test against Pakistan at Newlands on Friday but will want to keep its momentum going in the longest format.

Questions around its brittle batting line-up will be a major focus on what has recently been a perilous Newlands pitch.

The previous Test played there against India 12 months ago lasted only 107 overs as the visitors won by seven wickets inside two days, the shortest Test that has had a winner in history.

Better wicket

The wicket should be better this time round, but at a ground that used to be a fortress for the home team, it has lost two of its last three Tests in Cape Town. "We definitely haven't been clinical or ruthless when the opportunity or the situation is called upon," Bavuma said.

Pakistan will rue not closing out the first Test having reduced South Africa to 99 for eight chasing 148 on a tough Centurion Park wicket, only for all-rounder Marco Jansen and fast bowler Kagiso Rabada to carry the hosts to victory.

Captain's appeal: Bavuma wants his team to be ruthless as his side hopes to sustain momentum. GETTY IMAGES

Pakistan captain Shan Masood has also spoken of the need for his side to be more ruthless when on top, both with the bat and the ball.

Pakistan has won only two of its previous 16 Tests in South Africa, and none since 2007. It has lost all four previous visits to Cape Town.

I'll be back on pitch soon: Antonio in a message to West Ham fans

Associated Press
LONDON

West Ham forward Michail Antonio sent a message to the Premier League club's fans on Tuesday after being discharged from the hospital as he continues his recovery following a car crash in early December.

"Happy New Year – and I'll be back on that pitch soon," Antonio wrote in a message posted by the club on its official website.

Antonio, a 34-year-old Jamaica international, needed surgery on a lower limb fracture after a one-car incident outside London on December 7, and is expected to face a lengthy spell of rehabilitation. "Every year around this time, I'm asked what I'm grateful for, and every year I've struggled to find the right words," Antonio said in his message. "But this year, I know exactly what I'm grateful for: being alive."

West Ham manager Julen Lopetegui previously called the outcome of the crash a "miracle".

Antonio thanked everyone who had helped him, including emergency services, the air ambulance "and everyone from top to bottom at West Ham United FC".

He has made more than 300 appearances for West Ham since joining from Nottingham Forest in 2015, and played in all 14 games this season before the incident.

Tough time: Dabrowski found a first lump in the second half of 2023 and was initially told not to worry about it. FILE PHOTO

Dabrowski reveals she played through 2024 after cancer diagnosis

TENNIS

Associated Press
LONDON

Former U.S. Open women's doubles champion Gabriela Dabrowski revealed on Tuesday that she had played through 2024 after undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She delayed part of that treatment so that she could compete at Wimbledon, where she reached the doubles final.

"I know this will come as a shock to many, but I am OK and I will be OK," the 32-year-old Canadian said on social media. "Early detection saves lives. I can wholeheartedly agree with this."

Dabrowski, ranked third in women's doubles, said in an Instagram post that she received the diagnosis in April. She did not play that month and in May because of surgery, but returned to the courts in June.

Dabrowski said there was "a slight delay in further treatment" so she could compete at Wimbledon – where she and New Zealand's Erin Routliffe lost the final in July to Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend – and the Paris Olympics, where she won the bronze medal in mixed doubles with Felix Auger-Aliassime. Dabrowski said she had found a first lump in the second half of 2023 and was initially told not to worry about it.

Surreal

"It all seems surreal," Dabrowski wrote, saying she now has a "better grasp" of her treatment and side effects. For a long time I wasn't ready to expose myself to the possible attention and questions I'd have gotten before. I wanted to figure everything out and handle things privately with only those closest to me in the loop."

Dabrowski and Routliffe won the WTA Finals at the end of this season. The pair also won the U.S. women's doubles title in 2023.